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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 January 1963, at 3.5 p.m.

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Election of officers

Adoption of the agenda (ST/SG/AC.4/1)

PRESENT:

Acting Chairman:	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
Chairman:	Mrs. TREE	United States of America
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. M'ALALASEKERA	Ceylon
	Mr. J.SILVA	Ecuador
	Mr. DOUQUIN	France
	Mr. NABAVI	Iran
	Mr. CAPOTORTI Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mr. RIFA'I	Jordan
	Mr. OSTROVSKI	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. VELAZQUEZ	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. LING	
Representatives of non-governmental organizations:		
Category A:	Mr. Paul BARTON	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
	Mr. FLANZ	World Veterans Federation
	Mr. BARRETT-BROWN	World Federation of United Nations Associations
Secretariat:	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. LAWSON	Secretary of the Committee

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ACTING CHAIRMAN said that the Special Committee had been appointed by the Secretary-General in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII The plans which it would prepare for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights, which was scheduled to meet at Geneva in March 1963. He invited the Committee to elect its officers.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been the subject of much controversy in the Third Committee. In order to avoid further difficulties, he thought that the representative of an African, Asian or Latin American country should be elected as Chairman, as was customary in other United Nations organs.

Mr. JATIVA (Ecuador) said that the invitation the Ecuadorian delegation had received to participate in the Special Committee's work was a tribute to the country's traditions with regard to observance of human rights. He nominated Mrs. Tree (United States of America) as Chairman. Mrs. Tree's interest in human rights and her experience as United States representative in the Third Committee would be of great assistance to the Committee in the accomplishment of its task.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while he appreciated Mrs. Tree's ability and personal qualities, it would be inappropriate for the work of the Special Committee to be presided over by the representative of a country which had raised strong objections at the time resolution 1775 (XVII) had been adopted. The Soviet delegation had proposed amendments indicating that the situation regarding compliance with the Universal Declaration was deteriorating in a number of countries, particularly the United States. The United States delegation had, of course, opposed that amendment, just as it had objected to inserting a paragraph in the preamble stating that the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration might further promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

(Mr. Ostrovski, USSR)

without exception as to race, language, sex or religion. The United States delegation had also opposed the amendments of Mali and Guinea, which expressed the hope that the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration would mark the end of colonialism. The hostile attitude the United States had taken at the time of the adoption of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples should be borne in mind in that connexion. It would be paradoxical to elect as Chairman the representative of a country which violated not only human rights, but the Charter of the United Nations. He was therefore unable to support the nomination of Mrs. Tree.

Mrs. Tree (United States of America) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. CAPOTORTI (Italy) nominated Mr. García del Solar as Vice-Chairman. He hoped that the Committee would approve that choice in view of the great contribution made by the Latin American countries, especially Argentina, in the field of human rights.

Mr. García del Solar (Argentina) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. NABAVI (Iran) nominated Mr. Demetropoulos as Rapporteur. Mr. Demetropoulos was eminently qualified for that post by his experience of the work of a number of United Nations organs.

Mr. Demetropoulos (Greece) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking on her own behalf and on that of the other officers, thanked the Committee for the confidence it had placed in them.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) congratulated the officers on their election. Expressing particular satisfaction at the election of Mrs. Tree as Chairman, he recalled the important part played by her distinguished country-woman, Mrs. Roosevelt, in the preparation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. BARTON (Canada), Mr. RIFAI (Jordan), Mr. CAPOTORTI (Italy), Mr. MALALASEKERA (Ceylon) and Mr. VELAZQUEZ (Uruguay) associated themselves with the congratulations expressed by the French representative.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he acknowledged the soundness of the principle the Secretary-General had followed

(Mr. Ostrovski, USSR)

in setting up the Special Committee, namely, that of inviting the countries which had participated in the drafting of resolution 1775 (XVII) and the sponsors of amendments to be members of the Special Committee. He was not, however, entirely satisfied with the composition of that Committee. He thought a recommendation might be made to the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of inviting other countries to sit on the Special Committee. While the participation of certain socialist countries might raise difficulties, there would certainly be no objection to the participation of African countries. The defence of human rights was indissolubly linked with the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and without respect for the principles of that Declaration, there could be no question of the defence of human rights. It should also be borne in mind that the African countries which had gained their independence were taking an active part in the work of the United Nations and should therefore be invited to sit on the Special Committee.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) pointed out that, under General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII), the composition of the Special Committee was to be decided by the Secretary-General. He nevertheless agreed with the Soviet representative that it would be desirable for African countries to be represented, since their experience and ideas would be very helpful in the preparation of plans for the celebration. He found it surprising that a country like the United Kingdom, which had played an extremely important part in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the discussion of resolution 1775 (XVII), was not represented. He asked the Chairman whether the Special Committee could ask the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of inviting a representative of the United Kingdom to take part in its work.

Mr. BARTON (Canada) supported the French representative's suggestion.

Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) said that he entirely shared the Soviet representative's views. It would be an honour for the Special Committee to welcome representatives of the African and the socialist countries. It was not, however, for the Special Committee, but the General Assembly to make observations

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(Mr. Rifa'i Jordan)

on the composition of the Special Committee and to make recommendations on the matter to the Secretary-General. In order to overcome that procedural difficulty, he proposed that the summary record of the Special Committee's discussions should be brought to the Secretary-General's attention, without making any specific observations or requests. He hoped that the Secretary-General would take account of those discussions and take such steps as he thought necessary.

Mr. CAPOTORTI (Italy) supported the procedure suggested by the representative of Jordan. It would, however, be necessary to stress the Special Committee's express wish that the African countries and the United Kingdom should participate in its work, and he hoped that the Secretary-General would take that point of view into consideration.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would like to know if the representative of the Secretary-General could enlighten the Committee on that point immediately. Noone questioned the fact that it was the Secretary-General's responsibility to determine the membership of the Special Committee. Technical problems were certainly involved but perhaps some way could be found to overcome them.

Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) said he was sure that the Secretary-General would give most sympathetic consideration to the wishes expressed by various members of the Special Committee if the summary record of the discussion was transmitted to him.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ST/SG/AC.4/1)

The agenda was adopted.

Mr. BARTON (Canada) said that, in view of the possibility of an expansion of its membership, it would be preferable for the Special Committee to adjourn its work until a later date. He made a formal proposal to that effect.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) supported the proposal and said that, pending the next meeting, the officers might hold consultations on the preparation of a preliminary draft of plans for the celebration.

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Mr. MALALASEKERA (Ceylon) saw no objection to the adjournment of the Committee's work. He wished to emphasize that it was not enough merely to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights The main objective was to ensure its strict application, having regard, in particular, to the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. From that standpoint, the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration was a unique opportunity to take the specific steps called for by the far-reaching changes at present taking place in the world.

Mr. VELAZQUEZ (Uruguay) supported the French representative's suggestion concerning the possibility of preparing a plan of work which could be studied by members of the Committee before the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Special Committee should adjourn until Monday, 28 January.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 January 1963, at 11 a.m.

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Plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII)) (ST/SG/AC.4/1.5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-3)

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Mrs. TREE	(United States of America)
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. BAYONA	Colombia
	Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. JATIVA	Ecuador
	Mr. BOUQUIN	France
	Mr. NABAVI	Iran
	Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mr. RIFA'I	Jordan
	Mr. LUQMAN	Mauritania
	Mr. BAROODY	Saudi Arabia
	Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON	Thailand
	Mr. OSTROVSKY	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. ATTLEE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. MEANS	United States of America
	Mr. MARQUES SERE	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS Mrs. KALM	World Health Organization
Representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. GERIN	
	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
Secretariat:	Mr. CULPEPPER	Secretary of the Committee

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PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII)) (ST/SG/AC.4/1-5); ST/SG/AC.4.4/L.1-3)

The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new members of the Committee. She suggested that the representatives who had had time to examine the new documentation that had been submitted should express their views and that the others should discuss it at a subsequent meeting. A sub-committee could then be set up to select, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the most practicable of the suggestions made and on the basis of that selection the Rapporteur could prepare a draft report for submission to the Committee as a whole. When the Committee had considered the draft report, the Rapporteur could prepare his final report to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its forthcoming session.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was glad that the membership of the Committee had been expanded; he was not entirely satisfied, however, for the socialist countries were still not adequately represented.

Everyone seemed to be in agreement that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be as extensive as possible. When it came to the steps to be taken in connexion with that celebration, however, there appeared to be two divergent trends. One favoured a formalistic approach with emphasis on the adoption of resolutions, as though that were an end in itself, and failed to take into account the actual evolution of the problem of human rights throughout the world; that, indeed, was the spirit in which General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII) had been introduced. The other trend stressed the achievement of results. He recalled in that connexion that the inclusion in resolution 1775 (XVII) of a seventh preambular paragraph to the effect that the application of suitable measures to mark the anniversary might further promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms had originated with an amendment proposed by the USSR to the joint draft resolution. The purpose underlying that paragraph had been to stress that the celebration should be aimed at improving the situation rather than merely calling attention to the successes already achieved.

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(Mr. Ostrovsky, USSR)

One point which should be given prominance during the celebration was the progress made towards the abolition of colonialism, for colonialism was the complete antithesis of the concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The inclusion in the preamble to resolution 1775 (XVII) of a paragraph expressing the hope that all States would implement General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), so that the anniversary would witness a decisive step forward in the liberation of peoples, had originally been proposed by the delegations of Guinea, Mali and Mauritania. His delegation agreed with them that in the celebration of the anniversary resolution 1514 (XV) should be kept in mind, for the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples was closely bound up with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On the occasion of the anniversary it should also be stressed that the situation regarding compliance with the recommendations made in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remained unsatisfactory in many parts of the world, as was noted in a preambular paragraph of resolution 1775 (XVII) which had been included at the instance of his delegation, and that in some cases it was deteriorating.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) expressed his thanks to the delegations which had urged that the United Kingdom should be represented on the Committee. His country was proud to have been among the architects of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and welcomed the opportunity to make a contribution to the Committee's work.

He noted with regret that the election of a member of the United States delegation as Chairman of the Committee had been opposed by a delegation which had long been rather reluctant to discuss the subject of human rights and which was now treating General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) as a substitute for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although he had not yet read all the documentation pertaining to the Committee's work he would like to make a few general comments. Firstly, he thought that one of the best ways in which Governments could participate in the celebration would be to take steps to ensure real progress in the implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their citizens. By such means as official

(Mr. Attlee, United Kingdom)

messages, directives to schools and, where broadcasting systems were government-controlled, appropriate programming, Governments could do much to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the observance of human rights; he pointed out in that connexion that in democratic countries positive action resulted from the pressure of public opinion. At the same time, it was the non-governmental organizations which could do most to encourage citizens to become aware of their rights and obligations.

The suggestions made by the Office of Public Information in its memorandum (ST/SG/AC.4/L.2) were excellent. With regard to the dissemination of printed matter, however, he wished to emphasize his delegation's view that quality was more important than quantity. In many parts of the world information media tended to be flooded with so much documentation that they could not possibly give adequate consideration to it all. He therefore hoped that the material disseminated would consist of reasonably large amounts of material of very high quality rather than enormous quantities of less valuable documentation.

Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) expressed his satisfaction that Costa Rica had been invited to participate in the Committee's work and observed that in view of its special character the Committee should not allow itself to be influenced by political considerations which had nothing to do with the task entrusted to it.

Two of the most important documents which the Committee had before it were the summary of available suggestions concerning the celebrations (ST/SG/AC.4/L.3) and the statement received from the Permanent Representative of Ceylon (ST/SG/AC.4/5). In carrying out the suggestions made in those documents emphasis should be placed on participation by those elements of the population which, owing to economic conditions and in some cases to political factors, stood to gain most from the implementation of the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Otherwise the celebration would be nothing more than a restatement of those principles.

Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) said that on the whole the suggestions set forth in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 appeared to him to call for a ceremonial approach to the celebration of the anniversary rather than one which would produce concrete results. The impact of the celebration would be far greater if it was used as the occasion

(Mr. Rifa'i, Jordan)

for positive action, such as the proclamation of a general amnesty covering political and perhaps other prisoners, or the adoption of measures to extend women's rights. Such action would help to convince the younger generation that the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Human Rights had genuine significance.

He would make more detailed comments after he had familiarized himself with the remainder of the documentation.

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) pointed out that the words "... will witness a decisive step forward in the liberation of all peoples", in the third preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII), had been proposed by the delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica and Thailand.

His delegation wished to suggest that the activities mentioned in paragraph 1 (j) of the annex to document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 should include the use of world-wide communications media to carry pre-recorded conversation-messages between past Presidents of the General Assembly, the first Secretary-General and the incumbent Secretary-General. All Member States would be asked to encourage the owners, in cases of private ownership, and the managers, in cases of State ownership, of radio and television media to broadcast at least part of the conversations. In that connexion, the United States Government would consider approaching the owners of Telstar. His delegation also thought that the General Assembly should be asked to place a plaque or bronze tablet inscribed with the Universal Declaration in a conspicuous place at United Nations Headquarters, where it could be seen by visitors. The plaque could be dedicated on the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration.

Literature stressing the purposes, work and accomplishments of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should be prepared and widely disseminated. National committees for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary should be set up to form the nuclei of permanent organizations to work out ways and means of implementing the Universal Declaration. National and local festivals should be planned and human rights concerts should be held nationally and locally, with the appropriate publications. The United Nations had often given a concert on Human Rights Day and various cities had followed that example. Since the inclusion in

(Mr. Means, United States)

the programmes of material on the Universal Declaration increased printing costs, one practical way to help communities to hold such concerts might be to provide mass-produced programme blanks already printed with material on the Declaration, including appropriate quotations. In addition, local and national art exhibitions might be held, with prizes for the best artistic work on the subject of human rights.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that what he had wanted to emphasize was that, in the context of human rights and the Universal Declaration, attention should be concentrated on practical results and on the idea of progress towards the liberation of all peoples. It was essential that the provisions of the Universal Declaration and of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples should be implemented and that all forms of discrimination should be abolished. The work of the Special Committee certainly had political significance; such phenomena as apartheid, fascism and colonialism must disappear because they were contrary to human rights. His delegation expected Governments to adopt firm measures in that connexion.

Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) said that the invitation extended to his country to participate in the work of the Special Committee was a testimony to his Government's dedication to human rights. The people of Mauritania, who were a Moslem people, would always be guided by the teachings of the Koran, which had enumerated every possible human right before any other codification had existed. It was regrettable that two States Members of the United Nations, Portugal and South Africa, were still denying basic human rights to their inhabitants.

Mr. BARODDY (Saudi Arabia) said that the Secretariat suggestions (ST/SG/AC.4/L.3) were useful and comprehensive and would serve as a guide to the Special Committee. The material to be used for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration should include a description of the genesis and evolution of human rights. The United Nations had not invented human rights, which had already been embodied in literature such as the Koran and the Bible, but had codified them for adaptation to contemporary circumstances. In that task, the United Nations had benefited from the progress achieved as a result of certain revolutions, such as the French and the Russian revolutions. Human rights originated

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

from the time when men had begun to feel that they had certain rights and should not be subjected to discrimination. It should be remembered that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been a collective effort and credit could not be given to any one person or country.

The United Kingdom representative had rightly said that quality was more important than quantity with regard to documentation. Use should be made of all types of visual material, including pamphlets, which should be distributed where they were likely to have some effect. In the developed countries and in some urban areas of the developing countries the printed word could be effective, but on the whole interesting films would have a greater impact on the public, especially in countries where illiteracy persisted. Films could be shown illustrating the most important articles of the Universal Declaration. Television, too, should be used whenever possible. Human rights postage stamps would provide good national and international publicity and it might be possible to arrange with the Universal Postal Union to levy an extra tax on the purchase of stamps, which Governments would donate to the United Nations to finance certain projects related to human rights.

It should be remembered that the Universal Declaration had been the precursor of the human rights covenants, which it was hoped would be generally implemented in the near future. Such implementation should be achieved through education rather than enforcement, since experience had shown that it was impossible to force Governments to implement human rights. The end of colonialism was universally desired and the draft Covenant on civil and political rights mentioned the right of self-determination. Although colonialism was a fundamental issue, it was only one aspect of the Universal Declaration and of the draft Covenant. Many countries had been liberated from the colonial yoke, and Arab and African membership of the United Nations had recently increased considerably. Other fundamental human rights were still not being observed; racial and religious discrimination, arbitrary arrest and many other such violations of human rights persisted. There were many obstacles and difficulties preventing the universal observance of human rights, and the celebrations connected with the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration could help to make more people conscious of their duties in that respect, since freedom was illusory if it did not entail responsibilities.

Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON (Thailand) observed that as the Special Committee's terms of reference required it only to prepare plans for the celebration, it should address itself to its task and not engage in the kind of political debate on the substance of human rights which was normally the province of the General Assembly's Third Committee.

No country was in a position to assert that all its people enjoyed all the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration and it ill behoved countries to try to interfere in the human rights problems of others while not permitting their own people to enjoy important human rights. The members of the Special Committee should think in terms of promoting all the rights proclaimed by the Universal Declaration, even if some of them were not fully enjoyed in their own countries.

Mr. BAYONA (Colombia) said that his delegation would probably have some suggestions to make after it had studied the documents recently circulated. He would like, however, to ask one question: namely, whether the Committee intended to engage in a debate on where and how human rights were being implemented. He would be more than happy to contribute to such a debate but he wondered whether the Special Committee was the place for it. It seemed to him that it was the task of the Special Committee to plan a world campaign for liberty and to promote not one but all of the human rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration.

Mr. BARTON (Canada) expressed satisfaction at the expansion of the Special Committee and welcomed the new members.

In the field of human rights, the role of the United Nations was that of a catalyst and the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration represented a good opportunity to make the Declaration better known and to promote its implementation. Governments would take steps to implement human rights when their peoples demanded them and the celebration should therefore be aimed at encouraging activity at the local level by non-governmental organizations and other agencies interested in human rights.

In line with the remarks of the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Thailand, he suggested that the general approach should be to promote the feeling that the place to begin was at home, and to encourage people in each country to think about their own shortcomings in the matter of human rights and to face their

(Mr. Barton, Canada)

responsibilities. Most of the suggestions summarized in the Secretariat paper (ST/SG/AC.4/L.3) were good in that they dealt with activities at the local level. In his view, grandiose and costly commemorative activities would detract from, rather than add to, a fitting celebration of the anniversary.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that he was grateful to the Secretary-General for having taken into account all the suggestions made at the last meeting regarding the membership of the Special Committee. He agreed with the representatives of Thailand and Colombia that the Special Committee was not competent to discuss the substance or meaning of human rights. It was in order, however, for members to express views on the principles that should guide the planning of the celebration.

In his opinion, the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration should aim at leaving a more vivid impression than that of the tenth anniversary. Although he probably differed with his Soviet colleague with regard to the countries concerned, he had to agree that after fifteen years the situation with respect to human rights in some countries was rather poor.

Secondly, the celebration should not concentrate on phenomena which were disappearing, while more or less disregarding those which stubbornly persisted. The celebration should serve to throw light on the dark areas and emphasize that the Declaration was a Universal Declaration and that all the rights it proclaimed were applicable everywhere.

Thirdly, the Special Committee could not do the work of other United Nations organs, such as those dealing with the draft Covenants on Human Rights, but it could help them by drawing attention to what those rights were, through wider dissemination of the text of the Universal Declaration, and to the results that had been achieved in strengthening those rights through the implementation of conventions such as, for example, that of UNESCO regarding the protection of human rights in the field of education, as suggested by the delegation of Ceylon (ST/SG/AC.4/5).

There was an enormous choice of possible activities at the international, national and local levels. He favoured a dynamic approach, activities that would engage large numbers of people, in schools, non-governmental organizations and so forth.

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(Mr. Bouquin, France)

He recalled that at the thirty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council he had mentioned the possibility of utilizing artificial communications satellites to broadcast commentaries on the text of the Universal Declaration. He had been happy to hear the United States delegation make a similar suggestion in connexion with its recommendation that pre-recorded conversations and messages between past and present Secretaries-General and Presidents of the General Assembly should be transmitted by world-wide communications media. He suggested that such messages might also be broadcast by those who had played an active part in the drafting of the Universal Declaration, including, so far as his own country was concerned, Mr. René Cassin and Mr. Henri Laugier.

He welcomed the suggestions that had been made for establishing art and literature prizes for works dealing with human rights.

Finally, he supported the suggestion of the Chairman concerning the establishment of a sub-committee to prepare a draft plan for the Special Committee's consideration.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that the under-representation of the socialist countries in the Special Committee compelled him to speak so often during the discussion.

He wished to point out, for the benefit of the Secretariat in its preparation of plans that it was generally agreed that the celebration should take into account the practical situation existing in the world and should not be limited to the formal commemoration of an anniversary.

He noted that the representative of Saudi Arabia did not object to decolonization being stressed together with the other human rights and that the representative of France agreed that there were still serious shortcomings with respect to the observance of human rights. The remarks of the representative of Thailand had reminded him of the fact that outside interference in the internal affairs of small countries often tended to restrict the enjoyment of human rights in those countries.

Mr. DEMETROPOULOS (Greece) observed that all the suggestions that had been received had merit and deserved to be passed on to the Commission on Human Rights. They covered a broad range of activities and the Special Committee should try to provide the Commission with some guidance by trying to define the purposes of the celebration.

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(Mr. Demetropoulos, Greece)

In the first place, the celebration could neither aspire to solve all the problems of human rights nor gloss over what remained to be done. Secondly, it was a "celebration" and should therefore have a ceremonial and optimistic character, stressing achievements. Finally, the celebration should promote the cause of human rights.

He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that that could best be done by acquainting the public at large with what those rights were and what the United Nations had done in that field, so that the people would be encouraged to claim them. The words of the Universal Declaration might, however, be regarded as somewhat platonic if presented without further explanation. Indeed, the whole celebration would have a hollow sound if the public was not made aware of certain facts concerning the Universal Declaration. What was needed was an authoritative United Nations text explaining the origin of the Universal Declaration and the steps that had been taken and were being taken to give effect to some or all of its provisions. Unfortunately no such text had ever been produced, although it had been called for in connexion with the celebration of the tenth anniversary. It seemed to him that such a text was indispensable, that it should be disseminated as widely as the Universal Declaration itself and that it could serve as basic material for lectures, speeches and other activities at the national level connected with the celebration. The text could be prepared by the Secretariat, or an international competition could be held for the preparation of a text. The second alternative would have the advantage of producing a great deal of material from which a choice could be made and of stimulating wide international interest in the Universal Declaration.

Competitions could also be held for stamp designs, posters and other visual material.

If such competitions were organized promptly, results could be obtained by the end of the year, when the celebration would be held. Substantial prizes should of course be awarded and with that in view countries and non-governmental organizations might be asked to contribute to a prize fund some of the resources they intended to spend on the celebration.

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The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would meet that afternoon and would meet again on 30 January to appoint a sub-committee. After that, it would meet on 18 February, and if necessary 21 February, to consider the report of the sub-committee and to prepare its report to the Commission on Human Rights.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 January 1963, at 3.20 p.m.

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Plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-3) (continued)

Establishment of a Sub-Committee

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Mrs. TREE	United States of America
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. BAYONA	Colombia
	Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. JATIVA	Ecuador
	Mr. BOUQUIN	France
	Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mr. RIFA'I	Jordan
	Mr. TROARE	Mali
	Mr. LUQMAN	Mauritania
	Mr. BAROODY	Saudi Arabia
	Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON	Thailand
	Mr. OSTROVSKY	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. ATTLEE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
	Mr. MEANS	United States of America
	Mr. MARQUES SERE	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. GERIN	

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PRESENT (continued):

Representative of a non-governmental organization:

Category B and register:

	Mr. VASIL GERMENJI	International Federation of Free Journalists
Secretariat:	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. OBHRAI	Office of Public Information
	Mr. CULPEPPER	Secretary of the Committee

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PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-3) (continued)

Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) said that it was his understanding that the Chairman intended to establish a sub-committee to study all the proposals by members of the Special Committee which already appeared in the Secretariat documents or which might be made subsequently. It would therefore be useful to determine immediately the criteria according to which the sub-committee was to accept or reject the various proposals before it. For instance, the sub-committee might only take up proposals relating to the celebration of the anniversary as such. He would like to know the Chairman's views on that subject.

The CHAIRMAN said she thought that one of the criteria which the sub-Committee should bear in mind was the cost of the various activities proposed. But it was difficult to give a definite reply before the sub-committee met.

Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) felt that it would be as well to define the sub-committee's terms of reference before it met.

The CHAIRMAN agreed. In any event, the sub-committee could only take decisions pertaining to international activities, since national celebrations would obviously have to be left to the discretion of the Governments concerned.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) shared the view expressed by the Greek representative at the previous meeting that the Information Centres should co-operate on that occasion with education ministries, universities and school systems in their areas, as was in any case proposed in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.2. Governments could assist the Information Centres with the translation and dissemination of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly in the less widely-known languages. For its part, the United Kingdom Government was already lending assistance of that kind to the authorities of territories for which it was responsible.

Mr. OBHRAI (Office of Public Information) said that he wished to introduce document ST/SG/AC.4/L.2 and add some remarks about it. For obvious reasons, OPI felt that radio lent itself particularly well to such a celebration;

(Mr. Obhrai, OPI)

in certain areas, it was the only medium through which the great mass of the public could be reached. OPI intended to prepare a documentary script at Headquarters which would be distributed in about a hundred countries and territories - as had been done for the tenth anniversary of the Declaration - and to assist national radio services to prepare their own programmes for the occasion. It was a matter of encouraging them, giving them ideas and, above all, of supplying them with the necessary documentation (statements by prominent persons, records of meetings, etc.). On the day of the anniversary itself national radio services could devote part of their schedule to a reading of the full text of the Declaration; such a reading would take some twenty minutes, but if it was done by a prominent personality or famous speaker, it would bring the contents of the Declaration to the attention of a wide public.

The United Kingdom representative had made a useful proposal, for, while OPI would itself publish the text of the Declaration in some fifty languages, it would be unable for budgetary reasons to supply more than a limited quantity; it would therefore be a good thing if Governments were to publish further copies at their own expense, in the same or other languages. OPI would print the text as a pamphlet; Governments could disseminate it in the form of posters which would remain on permanent display in schools, universities and Government offices. OPI intended to mobilize the full extent of its resources, but any help from outside would be welcome.

Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) thanked the Chairman for giving him the opportunity to tell the Committee about the plans of UNESCO, which spared no effort to spread knowledge of human rights in all Member States, especially through its series of studies on race and science, and articles published in the International Social Sciences Journal. There was no doubt that by using new techniques the Special Committee would succeed in giving the Declaration added importance as could be anticipated from documents ST/SG/AC.4/L.1, L.2 and L.3.

Every year, the United Nations and the specialized agencies celebrated the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For the fifteenth anniversary, round-table discussions could be organized wherever international organizations had their headquarters; prominent personalities could take part

(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

and comment on radio or television on the human rights within the purview of the particular specialized agency concerned. Thus, UNESCO could organize a round-table on the right to education (article 26 of the Declaration), freedom of information (article 19), or the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community (article 27). The UNESCO General Conference had just adopted a resolution requesting the UNESCO Secretariat to undertake a series of studies on that last item.

In that connexion, it might perhaps be useful if the United Nations Secretariat were to draft a report on progress achieved over the pass fifteen years in the field of human rights.

As to practical plans, UNESCO must obviously reserve its position regarding any project with possible financial implications. The UNESCO Departments of Education and of Mass Communication had each begun to draw up plans of action. The former was preparing documents on the right to education and on the teaching of human rights and international understanding; for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary, it proposed to ask the 250 educational establishments in forty-three countries which were taking part in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project to organize special activities. The Department of Mass Communication would call upon the UNESCO national commissions and clubs, as well as non-governmental organizations, to organize ceremonies or study meetings devoted to human rights; it would print a series of photographs to be distributed in educational establishments, together with an explanatory pamphlet; that series would be widely disseminated, and UNESCO was currently engaged in talks with the various national commissions with a view to having the pamphlet published in as many languages as possible. UNESCO would also prepare a film strip, with a commentary in the four official languages. The "UNESCO Courrier" would issue a special number devoted to human rights; it was intended to publish the articles concerned separately so that they could be distributed for the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration. Fifteen thousand copies would be printed, in the four official languages, of the poster which had won first prize in the international human rights competition organized by UNESCO the previous year. Lastly, the Department of Mass Communication would send out a circular to the heads of postal services in Member States proposing the issue of commemorative stamps.

(Mr. Salvagnoli, UNESCO)

He reminded the Committee that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration was on the provisional agenda of the next session of the Consultative Committee on Public Information, which would take place at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 28 March 1963. He also emphasized the need to prepare all the documents in good time, so that they could be circulated before August 1963. He was at the Committee's disposal for any further explanations it might require.

Mr. RAYMOND (International Labour Organisation) recalled the ILO's specific responsibilities in the field of human rights. They related to freedom of association, more particularly as it concerned employers' and trade union organizations, the prevention of discrimination in employment, and the problems of forced labour. It was from the angle of its special responsibilities that the ILO could make an effective contribution to the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It might, for instance, help to mobilize public opinion, as suggested by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Costa Rica and France, through employers' and trade union organizations. The ILO would also be glad to give prominence in its public information activities to the human rights problems within its purview. Lastly, it could participate in any commemorative ceremony to be organized in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations on 10 December 1963. The ILO would give most favourable consideration to any proposals that the Special Committee might put forward and would do its very best to implement them.

Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization) said that WHO was prepared to co-operate fully with the Special Committee and that its Division of Public Information would underline the importance of human rights problems. It was suggested in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 that the specialized agencies might organize observances at their headquarters. WHO would participate to the full in any observance that might be organized in Geneva. It would be easier to decide on the details of the proposed activities after the forthcoming meeting of the Consultative Committee on Public Information.

Mr. CERMENJI (International Federation of Free Journalists) welcomed the fact that the letter from his organization had been circulated He wished to emphasize the right to a family: owing to various circumstances, many families had been separated and scattered throughout the world. If the Committee could take up that question with a view to making it possible for those families to be reunited, that, together with the general amnesty that had been proposed, would make the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a brilliant occasion. It was also an excellent idea to use Telstar for that purpose.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) asked whether the number of copies of the Universal Declaration to be printed in the different languages had been calculated on the basis of expected demand and available stocks. It seemed somewhat surprising that provision had been made for 5,000 copies in Welsh and only 3,000 in Russian.

Mr. OBHRAI (Office of Public Information) explained that the numbers of copies had been decided on the basis of reports from the information centre for each region. OPI need publish only a small number of copies in languages in which other organizations, governmental or non-governmental, could undertake a wider distribution; but it was obliged to print more copies itself in the languages for which other means of reproduction and distribution were lacking.

Mr. BARTON (Canada) suggested that in its report, the Committee should ask the United Nations, the specialized agencies and Governments to report on the steps they had taken or were intending to take with regard to the celebration. The Committee would thus have before it some very useful basic documentation.

Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) said that the United Kingdom representative had raised a highly pertinent question. However, it was less important to distribute a large number of documents than to inform the public effectively. There, radio, television and other audio-visual media might play an outstanding role; they would, in particular, have the advantage of being able to reach the illiterate. The programmes might be relayed by satellites such as Telstar. The proposed sub-committee should examine those possibilities.

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(Mr. Luqman, Mauritania)

With regard to the use of radio, the United Nations might ask all States to devote a fifteen-minute broadcast to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without necessarily giving a reading of the entire text, since its length might cause programming difficulties, unless it was transmitted by private broadcasting stations. Document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 contained many other suggestions which deserved the Special Committee's attention. The Committee might also be guided by the experience gained during the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary as indicated in paragraph 7 of that document.

Paragraph 8 of the same document raised the question of financial implications. That was a matter of paramount importance and the Committee could go no further without having considered it in all its aspects. Of course, the problem of financing concerned only the United Nations and the organizations directly related to it.

The Special Committee should distinguish between the measures which were essential if it was to attain its objectives and those which could be disregarded without disadvantage. Since organizations which were not directly related to the United Nations might use the celebration for purposes other than those envisaged in the Universal Declaration, the Special Committee should be very cautious in formulating its recommendations to the organs concerned.

So far as participation by Governments was concerned, the Special Committee should not do more than make general suggestions. It was not for the Committee to ask Governments to report on the steps they intended to take for the celebration. Each Government was free to decide what form its own participation would take.

The date of 10 December 1963 was a judicious choice. That was a time of year when the eyes of the whole world were focused on the proceedings of the General Assembly.

Lastly, he said that, to ensure the success of the celebration, a special effort must be made to reach the peoples of distant countries, those whose information media were inadequate and those who were still beneath the colonial yoke. He might speak again later in the debate.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. BOUQUIN (France), replying to a question from the Chair, formally proposed that a sub-committee should be established and that its membership and terms of reference should be left to the Chairman to decide. As the Chairman had suggested, it might be a small working group which would carry on the task begun by the Committee's officers with the help of the Secretariat. The sub-committee, of which the committee's officers would be members, might consist of eight or nine representatives. It would report to the Special Committee at a subsequent meeting.

It was so decided.

Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) proposed that in order to save time, the Chairman should designate immediately the countries which were to be members of the Sub-Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Sub-Committee should be composed of the following members: Argentina, France, Greece, Jordan, Mauritania, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARIAT

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ST/SG/AC.4/SR.4
17 May 1963

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 30 January 1963, at 11 a.m.

CONTENTS

Plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII)) (ST/SG/AC.4/1-5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-3) (continued)

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Mrs. TREE	(United States of America)
later,	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. BAYONA	Colombia
	Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. BOUQUIN	France
	Mr. ACHKAR	Guinea
	Mr. GOUDARZIA	Iran
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mr. RIFA'I	Jordan
	Mr. TRAORE	Mali
	Mr. LUQMAN	Mauritania
	Mr. BARCODY	Saudi Arabia
	Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON	Thailand
	Mr. OSTROVSKY	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. ATTLEE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. MEANS	United States of America
	Mr. MARQUES SERE	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. GERIN	
	Mr. LING	
Secretariat:	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. OBERAI	Office of Public Information
	Mr. CULPEPPER	Secretary of the Committee

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PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII)) (ST/SG/AC.4/1-5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-3) (continued)

Mr. MARQUES SERE (Uruguay) said that, in carrying out its work, the Special Committee should make full use of the experience of the United Nations Secretariat and the non-governmental organizations. Although his Government was concerned with all aspects of human rights he thought that the Committee should limit its discussion to the specific task before it. The sub-committee which had been established was in the best position to examine proposals and reach concrete conclusions.

The celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration was not an end in itself but a means of strengthening the Declaration and promoting the observance of human rights. Activities in connexion with the celebration should show the progress made in regard to human rights, and illustrate the part the Declaration had played in promoting observance of those rights, the work being done in that connexion and the fields where there was still room for improvement.

The Greek representative had made an interesting suggestion about the preparation of a text explaining the steps that had been taken to give effect to the provisions of the Universal Declaration. The Soviet Union representative had urged that prominence should be given to the progress made towards the liberation of peoples, which was one aspect of the whole question of human rights. Attention should also be drawn to government efforts to promote the observance of human rights, despite the many difficulties encountered. His delegation supported the remarks of the representative of Mauritania about the use of radio; in addition to programmes broadcast by the United Nations, there should be repeated programmes on local networks. Telstar could also be a valuable medium for the transmission of information. The representative of UNESCO had made a useful suggestion about the organization of round-table discussions, for which he had suggested three possible subjects. There was therefore no lack of means for publicizing the Universal Declaration. Care should, however, be taken to see that publications

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(Mr. Marques Sere, Uruguay)

and other materials were suited to the public for whom they were intended. It was necessary to take account of varying cultural, social and economic levels as well as the existence of illiteracy. He agreed with the representative of Jordan that the celebrations should provide the occasion for positive action by Governments to improve the situation with regard to the recognition of human rights.

Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA (Ceylon) said that at that stage he would confine himself to making general suggestions for the guidance of the sub-committee. The most important task was to promote a wider dissemination of the message of the Universal Declaration; that could be achieved through the co-operation of Governments and organizations in Member States. His delegation believed that the fifteenth anniversary would be a suitable starting-point for such a campaign. The basic principles enshrined in the Declaration were in fact enunciated in one form or another in all the great world philosophies, but a forceful campaign was required to make their importance fully realized. If the implementation of the Declaration's provisions could be effectively promoted, the fifteenth anniversary might become a turning point in its history, so that by the twenty-fifth anniversary it would be possible to look back, not on ineffective resolutions, but on concrete achievements.

In that connexion, the possibility of the extensive use of radio should be explored. The authorities responsible for broadcasting should make plans for disseminating the message of the Declaration, which could be presented in a variety of ways. A prolonged effort was, however, required; a mere fifteen or thirty minute broadcast would not result in a sufficient awareness of the message and its implications. He hoped that the Office of Public Information would explore all possible avenues in that connexion.

Consideration might also be given to the use of State educational systems, which could incorporate a study of the Universal Declaration in their curricula. UNESCO might take the initiative in fostering such schemes.

(Mr. Wijegoonawardena, Ceylon)

Although he had confined himself to certain long-term aspects of the celebration, he hoped that the sub-committee would consider all possible methods, both long-term and short-term, of ensuring that the interest aroused was kept alive.

Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) said that, in connexion with school activities to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary, emphasis should be placed on co-operation between information centres and local educational authorities. The different dates of school terms should be borne in mind when planning special celebrations in schools. He presumed that the suggestion regarding the preparation by non-governmental organizations of booklets to guide national organizations applied to non-governmental organizations which were active on the international and not merely on the national level. There seemed to be general agreement that the celebrations should not be too ceremonial and official in character. They should focus attention on those aspects of the Universal Declaration which had a more immediate impact and appeal and were most likely to lead to positive results. Article 2, for instance, specifically stated that the Declaration should be implemented without distinction of any kind and was therefore relevant to the problem of racial and religious discrimination. Article 17, which concerned the right to own property, might be emphasized with a view to stimulating the introduction of agrarian reforms. The implications of each article of the Declaration should be explained and people should be encouraged to find out whether any discriminatory provisions existed in the legislation applicable to themselves and in pressing for remedial action, if necessary. The United States representative had made a constructive suggestion about the creation of permanent organizations to work out ways and means of implementing the Universal Declaration. A thorough investigation of attitudes and legislation resulting in violations of human rights would lead to the elimination of such violations and would stimulate the interest of minority groups in the Declaration, which would become more than a mere document.

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Mr. GARCIA DEL MOLAR (Argentina) said that his delegation's general views were similar to those expressed by the other members of the Special Committee who represented Latin America, where there was wide-spread respect for human rights. In view of the reference to "the development of friendly relations between nations" in the preamble to the Declaration, he felt that the Special Committee should not allow its discussions to be coloured by political overtones, but should concentrate on the task in hand.

The Secretariat was to be congratulated on the quality of the suggestions it had put forward. His delegation would, however, have welcomed an evaluation of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, which would have indicated the effectiveness of the different activities. He suggested that the Secretariat should request Member States to report on their celebrations of the fifteenth anniversary so that such information could be used as a basis for future planning.

There would be two main channels for activities in connexion with the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary: the United Nations with its specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations. In addition to action at Headquarters and the information centres, useful work could be done by other United Nations bodies such as the regional economic commissions. Co-operation with the specialized agencies was particularly vital; UNESCO could be very helpful, as it had national commissions in the various countries and often sub-commissions dealing specifically with human rights. The idea of round-table discussions was excellent. Planning committees should be established which could be of two types. First, there could be committees of non-governmental organizations, appointed by the Secretary-General, as suggested by the World Jewish Congress; similar committees could also be appointed by UNESCO and ILO; secondly, there could be national committees; his delegation suggested that the Commission on Human Rights should ask Governments to form such committees and report to it on the subject.

He entirely agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the quality of documentation was more important than the quantity. The most important document was the text of the Universal Declaration, which should be distributed as widely as the available funds permitted. Governments should be encouraged to print

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(Mr. Garcia del Solar, Argentina)

the text of the Declaration. Printed matter could in some cases be replaced by other means of communication, such as radio, to meet the needs of those who were illiterate. A commentary on the Universal Declaration should be prepared, as had been suggested for the tenth anniversary (Economic and Social Council resolution 651 B (XXIV), annex), should include not only the history of the Declaration but information about the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. As had been pointed out by the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, the work and even the very existence of the Commission were unknown in many circles. Where visual material was concerned, he would recommend the use of posters; a single type of poster should be used, perhaps the prize-winning poster, as suggested by the UNESCO representative, and should be widely distributed, especially in schools and factories. The same design could perhaps be used for the proposed stamp. Instead of re-issuing the film "Overture", it would be preferable for a new film to be prepared, possibly on the subject of racial discrimination. His delegation also welcomed the idea of round-table discussions and the idea of using Telstar. It thought that the celebration should last only one day, although, as suggested by the Office of Public Information, the number of radio and television programmes on the subject of human rights might be increased in the period immediately before the celebration. The Ceylonese delegation had rightly emphasized the need for action and concrete achievement (ST/SG/AC.4/5). A human rights decade might weaken the effectiveness of the current Development Decade but his delegation agreed that the year beginning 10 December 1963 should be declared "United Nations Year of Human Rights".

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation attached considerable importance to stimulating public opinion in favour of the Declaration. In that connexion, the non-governmental organizations could play an extremely important role and make practical proposals; it was therefore most regrettable that those organizations appeared to have lost interest in the work of the Special Committee.

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(Mr. Attlee, United Kingdom)

His delegation welcomed the suggestions made in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 and his comments on that document should be taken to imply acceptance of all suggestions not specifically mentioned. The United Kingdom delegation attached particular importance to paragraphs 5 (b) and 7 (b) and also to paragraph 8, which mentioned matters that it was essential for the Committee to consider. The date of the celebration should be 10 December 1963, in order to coincide with the proclamation of the Declaration, despite any difficulties raised by the dates of school terms. In connexion with part A, section 1, paragraph (b), of the annex to document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3, he was not in favour of declaring a United Nations Year of Human Rights, but thought that a shorter period would have more impact. He presumed that paragraph (d) was intended to cover other specialized agencies as well as UNESCO. The documentation mentioned in paragraph (f) would be useful to Governments as well as to information centres. In connexion with section 2, paragraph (a) 2, he pointed out that every year the United Kingdom Government recommended to the Queen to confer a number of honours and awards in recognition of services performed in the field of human rights. His Government supported the idea of special honours or awards in 1963 but might not itself make any special recommendations in that connexion. His delegation wondered whether it would be appropriate to hold celebrations as suggested in paragraph (a) 3, although it had no objection in principle. Nor did it object in principle to the special Parliamentary sessions mentioned in paragraph (a) 4, although it thought that the matter should be left to Parliaments themselves to decide. His delegation strongly supported the measures suggested in paragraph (a) 6. Paragraph (a) 8 was somewhat obscure; Governments should take positive action to preserve human rights but it was not certain that seminars and study programmes would have any practical results as far as implementation was concerned. His country did not need a national advisory committee but was not opposed to such bodies. All the measures proposed for non-governmental organizations deserved support. More information should be given about the nature of the pamphlet on the question of race which UNESCO was to be invited to prepare (section 3, paragraph (f)). He wondered whether it would be desirable to have a pamphlet

(Mr. Attlee, United Kingdom)

singling out one aspect of human rights. In connexion with the material to be used for the celebration, he was glad that many representatives had supported his views on the importance of quality rather than quantity of documentation.

Mr. SAISAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said in reply to the United Kingdom representative that UNESCO had issued a brochure entitled "The Race Concept" in connexion with the adoption by the General Conference at its fourth session of a Statement on the Nature of Race and Race Differences. That brochure could be reprinted or issued in a simplified form to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration. It had also issued ten studies dealing with the views of modern science on the question of race and a number of studies on the subject of racism and modern thought. Five more papers on race problems were to be issued for the forthcoming session of the General Conference. He did not think there would be much point in simply disseminating the Statement as such without any accompanying explanation. He was not sure whether the dissemination of the brochure he had mentioned would meet the suggestion made by the World Jewish Congress in the fourth paragraph of its communication reproduced in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.1 or whether that body had had some other idea in mind.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that in considering the celebration of the anniversary his delegation was moved by two paramount considerations. Firstly, it was of the opinion that the domination of one people by another represented the most flagrant violation of human rights and that the Committee should therefore consider the problem of colonialism and indicate steps that could be taken to hasten its elimination. He recalled in that connexion the hope his delegation had expressed that the eighteenth anniversary of the United Nations, which, like the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, would occur in 1963, should coincide with the end of the colonial system. In the course of the celebration it should be noted that the cause of human rights had made great strides in Africa as a result of the emancipation of many former colonies. Colonialism was to a large extent responsible for the phenomenon of racial discrimination, the other problem with which his delegation was primarily concerned. Accordingly, the same means should be used to combat both colonialism and racism. Although the United Nations could not compel any country to fulfil its obligations in the field of human rights, it could draw up a balance sheet of the gains

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(Mr. Achkar, Guinea)

made and the set-backs experienced. That could be done without attacking any country or political system as such.

He would make more detailed comments when the Committee had the results of the sub-committee's work before it. For the present he wished only to add that it was important to bear in mind the high illiteracy rate and other factors which would limit the effectiveness of the dissemination of printed matter in Africa; the use of radio and visual aids in such countries should therefore be stressed. UNESCO, the other specialized agencies, UNICEF and the Economic Commission for Africa could all play an important part in making the celebration a success in the African countries.

The CHAIRMAN observed that from the references which had been made to the work of the sub-committee, there appeared to be general agreement that its terms of reference should not be restricted to activities at the international level under United Nations auspices.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he thought members, in discussing possible ways of celebrating the anniversary, were tending to lay too much stress on the substance of certain rights. The celebration should have two major objectives: one was to arouse public opinion in those countries and among those sectors of the population which were already aware of the work being done by the international community in the field of human rights and the other was to make that work known to the many millions throughout the world who did not realize that the United Nations was concerned with anything other than political questions. It was important in that connexion to bear in mind the differences between countries and also between different sectors of the population within countries, and to avoid making plans that some countries would be unable to carry out. For example, many speakers had stressed the role that non-governmental organizations could play, apparently overlooking the fact that such organizations were much stronger and more extensively developed in some countries than others. His own country, where the existing non-governmental organizations were mostly charitable institutions, was a case in point. As far as Governments were concerned, some had greater experience and more facilities on which to draw in carrying out certain projects than did others. The United Nations should not run the risk of irritating and perhaps even embarrassing Governments by appearing to tell them what to do, for they themselves were the best judges of their own capacities.

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(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

Care should be exercised to avoid using terminology which would be too abstract to be universally intelligible. As other speakers had noted, radio and visual aids would be particularly useful in areas where there was wide-spread illiteracy. For the more sophisticated public a historical survey of the evolution of human rights throughout the ages might be prepared, either by the Secretariat itself or by some other agency which the Secretariat could suggest. Another measure which might prove effective would be the preparation by the Secretariat, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, of radio programmes on the subject of human rights, perhaps including round-table discussions. A new film dramatizing the progress made by human rights should be issued. Such a film could include sequences showing the contrast between the arbitrary treatment to which individuals had been subjected in the past and their enjoyment today of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. He suggested ways in which several of the articles of the Declaration could be dramatized. In such a film national costumes and symbols should be avoided, for it should have universal appeal. Other ways of celebrating the anniversary might be to organize a contest for the composition of a hymn or symphony on the theme of human rights and for the best work in the field of the graphic arts or to issue postage stamps which would be subject to a special tax, as he had suggested at an earlier meeting.

The Secretariat and the specialized agencies had a wealth of knowledge and experience of an international character and it might be advisable to leave it to them to do most of the actual work of preparation.

The celebration should concentrate on activities of the type he had mentioned rather than on highlighting particular rights or violations of rights, for there was no country in the world where one human right or another was not being violated. He was second to none in his opposition to such violations of human rights as colonialism and racism but he felt that the anniversary should be marked by a universal celebration of the concept of human rights rather than by disruptive criticism.

Mr. Garcia del Solar (Argentina), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

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Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) wished to say a few words on the question of colonialism for the benefit of the representative of Guinea, who had been absent from the previous meeting. He appreciated the way in which that representative had put a point of universal importance; the representative of Saudi Arabia in his brilliant statement had also set the question of colonialism in exactly the right perspective.

His Government and delegation fully realized the importance of the question and would not oppose a reference to it, provided a proper balance were maintained. As he had already pointed out, his Government was already helping the Office of Public Information in disseminating information on United Nations activities, including those relating to human rights; it had, for instance, provided for the translation into several minor African languages of the Universal Declaration, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and many other publications.

The remarks of the representative of Guinea were surely not directed against the Administering Powers, which were doing their utmost to lead the Territories for which they were responsible to complete independence. All those familiar with the Territories were aware that, although complete political rights might not be enjoyed in some instances, most other rights enshrined in the Declaration were respected there to a far greater extent than in many sovereign States and, particularly, in sovereign States practising concealed colonialism. That was true, for instance, of articles 13, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Declaration.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) assured the United Kingdom representative that he had not intended to single out the colonialism of any particular country and that he was aware of the endeavours made by the United Kingdom in what remained of its colonial empire. His purpose, however, was to draw the attention of the Committee and sub-committee to the matters which first sprang to the mind of Africans in pondering the question of human rights, namely, colonialism and segregation, in that order. Racialism, as it occurred in the United States and to some extent in the United Kingdom, was evidence of failure to establish a fair and fruitful relationship based on co-operation between peoples. It would be useful if, in addition to the UNESCO publications on racism, a pamphlet were issued, demonstrating the disadvantages of

(Mr. Achkar, Guinea)

colonialism and the advantages of decolonization for present and future international relations, without specifically attacking the present policies of any country. Such a publication would be helpful both to the colonized and to the colonizers. For example, the people of Portugal were ill-informed of the nature of Portuguese colonialism and did not realize that a changed relationship with their overseas territories would not harm, but would rather promote, their country's interests.

He fully agreed with the representatives of the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia on the need for arousing public opinion. The peoples should be made aware of the fact that while some favoured human rights, others were opposed to them. Thus the utmost would be done to promote effective and universal observance of those rights.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that while the proposals in document ST/SG/AC.4/L.3 were generally sound and comprehensive, there were some points on which he wished to comment briefly. Referring to paragraph 9, he said he agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the date of the celebration should be the anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration. He also questioned the advisability of proclaiming a "United Nations Year of Human Rights" as suggested in part A, section 1, paragraph (a), of the annex.

With regard to the form of the document, he agreed with the Argentinian representative that an evaluation of the tenth anniversary celebrations would have provided useful guidance on the media to be adopted. It would also have been better to draw a distinction between international and nationsl celebrations so that assistance from non-governmental organizations could have been studied both at the international and the national level. Other activities could be contemplated. For instance, concerts might be organized in various capitals as well as at United Nations Headquarters, perhaps accompanied by an exchange of broadcasts, as had been done in the past; international round-table discussions, in whose organization UNESCO might play an important part, could also be held.

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(Mr. Bouquin, France)

Where action at the national level was concerned, the question of special sessions of Parliaments (part A, section 2, paragraph (a) 4, of the annex) was a delicate one which raised questions of constitutional procedure. In paragraph (a) 6 of the same section, a reference should be added to national and local human rights committees. Several interesting suggestions had been made concerning further ways of marking the event at the national level: the representative of Jordan had suggested the granting of amnesties to certain prisoners, the representative of Saudi Arabia the organizing of artistic competitions, and the International Federation of Free Journalists the bringing together of dispersed families. Those suggestions should be considered by the sub-commiteee.

It was suggested in part A, section 3, paragraph (d) of the annex, that UNESCO should invite museums to run human rights shows, drawing from their own collections the finest works appropriate to the Universal Declaration; however, he himself did not understand how an artistic work could illustrate the Universal Declaration; it could, on the other hand, evoke the rights and principles set forth in the text of the Declaration.

Where media was concerned, he had been struck by the number of members who had stressed the advantages of audio-visual means and had maintained that printed matter would prove ineffective as a mass medium in their countries. While agreeing that the media selected should meet local requirements, he considered that every available means must be placed at the disposal of bodies interested in the celebration.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of certain statements which had been made, he wished the record also to reflect the Soviet point of view. The United Kingdom representative had attempted to insinuate that the populations in British territories enjoyed all possible rights. Colonialism had, however, been roundly condemned by the United Nations and it was therefore inappropriate for the United Kingdom to attempt to suggest that the populations under its administration had benefited from colonialism and that it had granted them rights they had not previously enjoyed. He should rather have been guided by the provisions of resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1775 (XVII).

Despite his respect for the representative of Saudi Arabia, he could not agree with some of the views he had expressed. While that representative's reproach of over-ambitiousness might be correct to some extent, he was apparently

(Mr. Ostrovsky, USSR)

suggesting that the objective should merely be to acquaint all sections of the population with the Declaration. However, it was not enough to supply information about the general provisions of the Declaration or the activities of the United Nations. Public opinion should be alerted to the need to eradicate phenomena such as colonialism and fascist ideologies which involved the denial of rights of entire populations. The Saudi Arabian representative had expressed the view that the United Nations should not make recommendations, for fear of embarrassing certain Governments. Yet the whole point of mobilizing public opinion was to ensure that practical results would be achieved. That being the case, recommendations should be made. They need not, however, be addressed to any particular Government; the important thing was that they should be in keeping with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the other resolutions on the subject of human rights.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that if the representative of the Soviet Union were to visit the countries for which the United Kingdom was still responsible, he would find there a degree of freedom and enjoyment of human rights which would surprise him considerably.

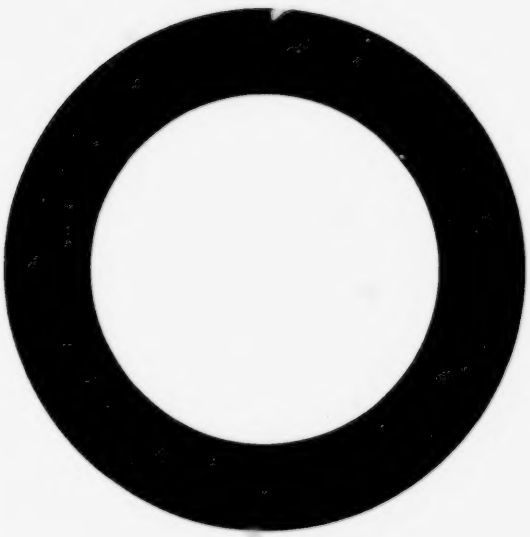
Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said he wished to correct any erroneous impression that had been gained by the Soviet representative. The Committee's function was not to discuss the substance of human rights, but to undertake the specific task of planning for the fifteenth anniversay celebration. The Soviet representative had reproached him with failing to touch on many aspects of human rights. He had, however, made it clear that he would confine himself to highlighting certain approaches, leaving others to be considered by the sub-committee, and he had explicitly stated that some human rights should not be stressed at the expense of others. Moreover, his long record in the fight against colonialism was well known. Violations of human rights such as colonialism, racialism and discrimination were more eloquent than anything that might be said in the United Nations.

Once the peoples concerned were fully aware of their rights, they would know what to do. However, to incite them to violence instead of giving them hope and an example would be wrong. The present world was no Utopia and one

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

right or another was constantly being violated in almost every country. However, with constant endeavour, it should prove possible in time to improve the human race and it was the duty of all to strive unceasingly towards that end.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.



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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 18 February 1963, at 3.40 p.m.

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Plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/1-5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-2, L.3/Rev.1, L.4) (continued)

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63-11551

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	(Argentina)
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. Florencio MENDEZ	Argentina
	Mr. ROBICHAUD	Canada
	Mr. MAHENDRAN	Ceylon
	Mr. BAYONA	Colombia
	Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. JATIVA	Ecuador
	Mr. BOUQUIN	France
	Mr. ACHKAR	Guinea
	Mr. GOUDARZNIA	Iran
	Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mr. DICKO	Mali
	Mr. LUQMAN	Mauritania
	Mr. BAROODY	Saudi Arabia
	Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON	Thailand
	Mr. OSTROVSKI	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. ATTLEE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. MEANS	United States of America
	Mr. MARQUES SERE	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Mrs. LOSEY MAPES	World Health Organization
Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. GERIN	
Secretariat:	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. OBHRAI	Office of Public Information
	Mr. CULPEPPER	Secretary of the Committee

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PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/1-5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1-2, L.3/Rev.1, L.4) (continued)

Mr. DEMETROPOULOS (Greece), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee (ST/SG/AC.4/L.4), said first that the document was provisional and not only could be amended by the delegations concerned but would be completed in the light of the comments made during the present meeting. The Committee's draft report was considerably shorter than the working paper prepared by the Bureau in collaboration with the Secretariat (ST/SG/AC.4/L.3/Rev.1), for repetitions had been eliminated so far as possible, although some suggestions were mentioned under several headings: it had seemed more suitable to classify the suggestions according to the type of organization to which they were addressed rather than according to their subject-matter. He would draw the Committee's attention to some changes which should be made in the document before it: on page 7, the words "and possibly hold round-table discussions" should be added at the end of paragraph 3 (b), and the phrase "as UNESCO has already suggested in a circular letter to the Postmasters-General of the Member States" should be added at the end of paragraph 3 (d). In addition, a suggestion which had been omitted by error should be inserted between paragraphs 4 (b) and 4 (c), in the following terms: "That Governments consider entrusting the organization of the celebration to an existing institution or an ad hoc committee designated or set up for this purpose." Lastly, paragraph 5 (h) should be replaced by the following text: "To reproduce and distribute United Nations posters on the theme of human rights including the winning design of the UNESCO international contest." In conclusion, he wished to thank the Division of Human Rights, the Office of Public Information and all the members of the Secretariat for the valuable assistance they had given him in the preparation of the report.

Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) recalled that any draft resolution the adoption of which would require special expenditures was usually accompanied by a

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statement of financial implications prepared by the Secretary-General. In the present case, unfortunately, it had not been possible to comply with that rule, specifically because it was hardly possible to estimate with accuracy the cost of each of the measures contemplated in the report. Nevertheless, the Secretariat was able to furnish provisional information concerning the financial implications of the suggestions in section I. The expenditures which would be necessitated by the recommendations in paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (f), and (g) - or some $40,000 in all - could be charged to the regular budget. As for the measures contemplated in sub-paragraphs (b) and (e), if they were approved by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and if the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions gave a similar opinion, the Secretary-General would have to secure their financing as unforeseen extraordinary expenditures and to request, at the resumed seventeenth session of the General Assembly, a supplementary appropriation of approximately $68,000, divided in the following way: $9,000 for the execution and hanging of a bronze plaque on which the Declaration would be inscribed; $20,000 for the preparation of a history of the Universal Declaration; $17,000 for the publication of the history in French and English (a figure established on the basis of 10,000 copies in each of the two languages); and $22,000 for the preparation of the pamphlets, wall sheets and leaflets mentioned in paragraph 2 (e).

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) wished first to commend the Rapporteur for his report, which was both clear and complete. As to the financial implications, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would undoubtedly consent to the necessary expenditures. But in case objections were raised against the suggestions in the report from the financial standpoint, he would like to submit to members of the Committee and to the Secretariat some ideas which might perhaps be useful. The proposed bronze plaque would have only a symbolic value - and it might even be feared that the plaque would one day seem anachronistic, on the possibly optimistic assumption that problems of human rights would eventually cease to exist - but many of those who came to visit the United Nations building would undoubtedly read the engraved text and his delegation was, therefore, not

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opposed to the hanging of such a plaque. A measure of that kind, however, was obviously not a revenue-producing one; whereas the sale of a history of the Universal Declaration, prepared in the proper style, might enable the United Nations, as the copyright owner, to realize profits which would be paid into a fund to encourage respect for human rights. Similarly, the text of the Universal Declaration might be disseminated in the form of an illuminated parchment for use as a wall decoration in homes and schools; receipts from sales would be paid into the above-mentioned fund and might make possible the granting of scholarships or fellowships and the awarding of prizes. Lastly, without wishing to go into the technical details, he suggested that the United Nations and the Postmasters-General of the States should impose a special surtax on the stamps which would be issued to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the sums collected in that way also being paid into the above-mentioned fund. Those were the ideas he had wished to submit for consideration by members of the Committee; he knew that he might be reproached for aiming too high or for being over-optimistic, but he would none the less be happy to know the opinion of delegations and the Secretariat in regard to them.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, the suggestions of the Saudi Arabian representative would be included in the report.

Mr. MEANS (United States of America), after congratulating the Rapporteur on the able manner in which he had performed a difficult task and expressing the hope that the report under discussion could be adopted without difficulty, requested that, in the light of an idea put forward by his delegation at an earlier meeting, a sub-paragraph (f) be added to paragraph 6, on page 9, in the following terms: "Encourage local communities to establish check lists designed to appraise the communities' effectiveness in promoting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) recalled that, in the debate concerning the question raised by the United States representative, his delegation had made some criticism of the expression "check lists". It had no reservations as to the substance of the United States suggestion, but thought that the idea of inquiries or public opinion polls should be substituted for that of check lists.

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Mr. MEANS (United States of America) accepted the suggestion of the representative of France.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, the sub-paragraph proposed by the United States delegation, as amended by the French delegation, would be inserted in the report.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the Rapporteur had coped very well with the difficulties of his task and had been fairly successful in drafting a document which had the merit of being both brief and precise. The report did, however, have some imperfections. First, paragraph 8 did not give a sufficiently faithful account of the views expressed by the Soviet and certain other delegations during the discussion. The Rapporteur's desire to be brief was undoubtedly creditable, and the Commission on Human Rights could of course refer to the summary records in order to ascertain the views expressed by delegations. But the Commission's work would be greatly facilitated if the report gave a general indication of the different opinions stated. It might therefore be appropriate to add a paragraph filling the gap. With respect, for instance, to the second and third sentences of paragraph 8, his delegation had urged the need, regarding the meaning to be attached to the celebration of the Declaration's fifteenth anniversary, to focus attention on the fight against racial discrimination, fascist ideology and war criminals, while other delegations had drawn attention to other violations of human rights. The Ceylonese delegation had suggested that Member States should be invited to devote particular attention to the implementation of the Declaration and to strike the balance of what had been achieved and what remained to be done. Other delegations had expressed the hope that the year of the celebration would mark the end of the colonial system, which was the very negation of human rights. The report should therefore give a more faithful account of the Committee's discussion on the objectives of the celebration, both in order to facilitate the work of the Commission on Human Rights and to indicate to non-governmental organizations and Governments the various meanings which might be attached to the anniversary and the basic issues which should on that occasion be stressed.

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The suggestions set forth in the report, while very clearly presented, were unfortunately all of an abstract nature. It might of course be hoped that Governments and non-governmental organizations would give concrete expression to the suggestions - particularly in the matter of abolishing colonialism - but at the same time it would clearly be useful to recommend some practical measures for combating the most odious encroachments on human rights. In that connexion he wished to remind members of the pertinent resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

As to the financial implications discussed by the Director of the Division of Human Rights, it was clear that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary would involve some expenditures which, unfortunately, could not be avoided. Nevertheless, the Organization's financial situation impelled one to consider very seriously the effectiveness of the measures proposed. His delegation hesitated to speak against any particular proposal, but it was anxious that the financial aspect of the problem should receive all due consideration.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) commended the perfectly balanced drafting of the report (ST/SG/AC.4/L.4), but reserved his Government's position regarding the financial implications of the recommendations set forth in it.

The representative of Saudi Arabia had very aptly asked whether there might not be certain profit-earning activities that might be undertaken in connexion with the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration. The United Kingdom delegation had serious misgivings about the practical usefulness of providing a bronze plaque, and would prefer to see any such item financed through voluntary contributions. Non-governmental organizations might perhaps make themselves responsible for that matter, since they in any case had a large part to play in the celebration. His own Government, for one, was doing and would continue to do all it could to ensure that the principles of the Declaration were known and applied in the territories for which it was responsible.

The USSR representative had mentioned some points which did not seem to him to come within the Committee's terms of reference. In any event his own delegation was confident that, in making any additions to the report, the Rapporteur would preserve the state of balance which now characterized it.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) congratulated the Sub-Committee on its useful and practical work. All delegations were aware of the need to take into due account the precarious financial situation of the United Nations. His delegation, like that of the USSR, would have preferred paragraph 8 of the report to be more explicit and, more specifically to list the most flagrant violations of human rights, among which the subjugation of peoples and racial discrimination were the gravest. Turning to the suggestions and recommendations set forth in the second part of the report, he expressed the view that the history of the Declaration, proposed in paragraph 2 (e), should make mention of the popular liberation movement which had grown up in Africa and elsewhere in the world, of the efforts now being made by the United Nations to eradicate the consequences of colonialism, and of the remaining work to be done in the latter field. In connexion with paragraph 2(f) he pointed out that there was an African organization - the African Radio Television Union - which embraced all independent territories in Africa with the exception of South Africa. The United Nations should establish contact with the Union, which might be of great assistance in spreading knowledge of the Declaration. He was pleased to note from the statement of the previous speaker that the United Kingdom Government would do its utmost in the matter of dissemination; special efforts, for instance, should be made to reach the peoples of Southern Rhodesia. Lastly, the special messages of Heads of State or of Government referred to in paragraph 4 (b) might emphasize the necessity of liberating all peoples in the world still under domination.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) recalled that his Government no longer had any power to intervene in the domestic affairs of Southern Rhodesia.

The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestions put forward by the representative of Guinea regarding sub-paragraphs 2 (e) and 2 (f) and sub-paragraph 4 (b) would be taken into account as far as possible. He would like to have the opinion of other delegations on the suggestions made by the representatives of the Soviet Union and Guinea concerning paragraph 8 of the report.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) pointed out, in reply to Mr. Attlee, that even if the United Kingdom was unable to intervene directly in the internal affairs of Southern Rhodesia, there was nothing to stop it from reaching the inhabitants of that country by way of the radio stations of Nyasaland, Bechuanaland, and Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) considered that it was necessary to take care, when disseminating the Universal Declaration throughout the world, not to give a false idea of that document by stressing only some of its features. It was undeniable that colonialism, racial discrimination and religious intolerance continued to exist, but it was equally true that considerable progress had been made in the campaign against those evils, which fortunately now affected only a minority of human beings, whereas other articles of the Universal Declaration which were at least as important, such as the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, and the right to education, were still a dead letter for over half the human race. Those two rights, like the right to a nationality or the right to freedom of movement, were at least as important as the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination, but it would be an error to lay particular stress on one of them and thus push the others into the background. The subjects of each country enjoyed those various freedoms to a greater or lesser extent, and imperfections in that regard were not the same in every country. In any country which might be named, whether it was the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom or Saudi Arabia, the enjoyment of human rights was unequal, as no country had attained absolute perfection in that field. For that reason, the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration should be celebrated without acrimony, rancour or bitterness, and without each nation trying to promote its own interests. It would therefore be better not to lay undue stress on the struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination, and he appealed to the representatives of Guinea and the Soviet Union not to insist on that point.

Returning to his earlier proposal, he added that if the number of profitable activities could be increased, it would be possible to obtain still larger funds than those foreseen by the representative of the Secretary-General. He also

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supported the proposal put forward by the United Kingdom representative on the subject of financing the bronze plaque to be put up at Headquarters. He remarked that such a plaque should under no circumstances be used for giving personal publicity to the donors; it should be put up in the name of the United Nations, and not in the name of this or that person or organization.

Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) was also of the opinion that putting up a bronze plaque would hardly be of any practical service to the cause of human rights. In contrast, he considered that the representative of Guinea had been quite right in pointing out the advisability of calling on the African Radio and Television Union in connexion with the celebration of the anniversary. The Secretariat should, moreover, give particular attention to radio programmes, for there were many people, in Africa for example, for whom it was impossible to communicate with the outside world or to receive publications from it, but who possessed radio sets. Whatever the representative of Saudi Arabia might say, there were still millions of people in Africa who were living under oppression and who must be helped to win their freedom. The Government of Mauritania was on excellent terms with all the former colonialist countries, and he was amazed that anyone could think that the mere fact of mentioning colonialism was bound always to give rise to rancour and dissension.

He hoped that the report would expressly mention his proposal that all Member States should be urged to devote at least fifteen minutes of radio time to the Universal Declaration.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) made it clear that it had never been his intention, in raising certain questions, to create an atmosphere of acrimony or rancour. With all due respect to the representative of Saudi Arabia, the problem of colonialism could not be put on the same level as the problem of the standard of living, or, in other words, of economic under-development, with which the United Nations would be dealing more particularly within the framework of the Development Decade. As for the right to education, he pointed out that education had made astonishing progress in the former colonial countries ever since they had obtained their freedom. Nothing, moreover, could alter the fact that colonialism was the gravest and most flagrant of all violations of human rights, that it was therefore necessary

(Mr. Achkar, Guinea)

expressly to castigate such an abuse, and that the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration was the best possible opportunity for doing so. It must be determined against which evils the United Nations could act most effectively on the occasion of the anniversary, and to focus all efforts on the most vital points. If the United Nations could not do that, then the Governments of the African countries would, of course, do it themselves, so that, no matter what happened, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration would also commemorate the struggle against colonialism.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) thanked the representative of Guinea for having drawn the Committee's attention to sub-paragraph 5 (a) (page 9). The United Kingdom Government was indeed assisting the Office of Public Information in the matter of radio broadcasts and the dissemination of documentation in many African countries, including Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He hoped that the information disseminated was reaching Southern Rhodesia, but he had no way of making sure of that.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in reply to a remark made by the Chairman, who had asked him to formulate a concrete proposal, said that in his previous statement, he had proposed that paragraph 8 should be modified so as to give a faithful picture of the views expressed during the discussions. Although the main object of the draft report was to define the consensus of the Committee, it had the further object of recording differences of opinion and noting all the opinions expressed. There was nothing revolutionary about what the Soviet delegation was proposing, and it therefore had difficulty in understanding the appeal made by the representative of Saudi Arabia. The important thing was that the report should reflect the various opinions expressed on the subject of colonialism and racial discrimination.

According to the representative of Saudi Arabia, it was wrong to attach more importance to certain questions than to others. The representative of that country had also felt it his duty to refer to human rights in the Soviet Union. It was quite true that nothing as yet was perfect, but in the Soviet Union there were specific programmes designed to consolidate human rights and fundamental freedoms still further.

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As far as the financial implications were concerned, the Soviet delegation considered that the delegations which were opposed to the idea of a commemorative plaque might well be right, as such a plaque would be very expensive and of doubtful utility. It would only serve to lead the public into error, for in reality the Universal Declaration was not fully applied. What was more, many people would think that the United Nations would be better advised to devote the funds at its disposal to the struggle against colonialism, racialism and violations of human rights.

The CHAIRMAN announced that, if there were no objections, the amendments proposed by the Rapporteur and by various delegations would be incorporated in the draft report. Some delegations were opposed to the idea of a plaque: their objections would be recorded in the report, and the Commission on Human Rights would decide the matter. As opinions differed on paragraph 8, he thought that it would be best to ask the Rapporteur to make a careful note of the suggestions of representatives who wished stress to be laid on certain specific violations of human rights. All the suggestions would be incorporated in an addendum to document ST/SG/AC.4/L.4. It might be necessary to envisage an additional meeting to consider such an addendum.

Mr. SAWAI (Japan) wished to compliment the Rapporteur on his excellent report as well as the members of the Sub-Committee and the Secretariat for their valuable assistance. The draft report, which had been amended in a well-balanced way, reflected the terms of reference of the Committee and the opinions and suggestions expressed by various members. It was a good piece of work, and he supported it fully. He also stressed the importance of mobilizing public opinion for the observance of human rights and of making peoples aware not only of their rights but also of their obligations if human rights were to be respected. The forthcoming anniversary would provide an excellent opportunity to attain those purposes.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) declared that he did not wish to prevent certain delegations from putting their views on record, but he failed to see the usefulness of formulating further specific proposals. If that course was to be followed, one might as well also mention questions such as nuclear tests, which imperilled the right to life set forth in article 3 of the Universal Declaration.

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(Mr. Barcody, Saudi Arabia)

To enumerate particular human rights according to the importance attached to them would only complicate the task of the Commission on Human Rights. He wished to make it clear that his previous statement had been prompted by a desire to establish a balance.

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) deplored the fact that the debate had degenerated into a controversy. As a co-sponsor of resolution 1775 (XVII), it came as a surprise to the United States delegation that that resolution was now being considered as a corollary to resolution 1514 (XV). If paragraph 8 of the draft report was to be modified, it should be balanced through the inclusion of references to all the fundamental freedoms as well as facts such as neo-colonialism, religious intolerance, "economic crimes" and racial discrimination. As for the Chairman's proposal, he suggested a slight modification: the Rapporteur might prepare a separate document for the Secretary-General, who would decide whether or not it should be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that he agreed with the representatives of the United States and Saudi Arabia. To be judiciously worded, the addendum which the Chairman had in mind should mention the opinions expressed on all the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he was unable to come to a decision regarding the draft report as it stood. Furthermore, he was unable to accept a proposal which, in effect, would relegate the opinions of African and other States to the background by recording them in a separate document. He therefore opposed the United States proposal and suggested that the Committee should hold another meeting on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that there would be no question of a separate document, but rather of addenda to the final document which would be submitted in due course to the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. OSTROVSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered it advisable to provide for a further meeting to examine the final document which the Rapporteur would have redrafted in the light of the opinions expressed.

He was afraid that the representative of Saudi Arabia had not understood him properly. The argument of the Soviet Union was that all the statements of

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opinion should find a place in the report, including the very point of view that he was expressing. If, for example, Saudi Arabia wished to mention article 3 of the Universal Declaration, it was free to do so. As for the United States, if it wished to insist on the necessity of combating neo-colonialism, the Soviet delegation would support it.

Furthermore, the representative of Saudi Arabia seemed to forget that although certain countries had made progress with regard to human rights, the situation had worsened in other countries. That was a point which it was important to stress.

The RAPPORTEUR said that in drafting the report, he had endeavoured to bring out the unanimity which had been achieved within the Committee. Several delegations were anxious that their opinions should be mentioned in the report; those opinions would be duly recorded in the addendum. Speaking as the representative of Greece, he suggested that when the addendum had been circulated, the members of the Committee should take the advice of the Chairman as to the suitability of having another meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, taking up the suggestion of the Greek representative, proposed that the Committee should wait until it had received the addendum in question before fixing the date of a further meeting.

Mr. BALOOBY (Saudi Arabia) thought it would be more practical to set the date of the next meeting at once, whereupon the Chairman might close the meeting.

Mr. AMUMIN-NAJADHON (Thailand) supported that motion.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 21 February, at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.

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UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARIAT

DISTR.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.4/SR.6
17 May 1963
ENGLISH
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 21 February 1963, at 2.50 p.m.

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Plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/1 to 5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1, L.2, L.3/Rev.1, L.4/Rev.1) (continued)

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR	Argentina
Rapporteur:	Mr. DEMETROPOULOS	Greece
Members:	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. BAYONA	Colombia
	Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. ALCIVAR	Ecuador
	Mr. BOUQUIN	France
	Mr. ACHKAR	Guinea
	Mr. NABAVI	Iran
	Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Mr. SAWAI	Japan
	Mrs. ROUSSEAU	Mali
	Mr. LUQMAN	Mauritania
	Mr. BAROODY	Saudi Arabia
	Mr. VEJJAJIVA	Thailand
	Mr. OSTROVSKY	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. ATTLEE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. MEANS	United States of America
	Mr. MARQUES-SERE	Uruguay
Representatives of specialized agencies:		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ORR	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Mrs. LOSEY-MAPES	World Health Organization
Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund:		
	Mr. GERIN	
Secretariat:		
	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. CULPEPPER	Secretary of the Committee

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PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1775 (XVII); ST/SG/AC.4/1 to 5; ST/SG/AC.4/L.1, L.2, L.3/Rev.1, L.4/Rev.1) (continued)

Mr. ORR (Food and Agriculture Organization), speaking on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, drew the attention of delegations to the world-wide Freedom from Hunger campaign launched by FAO and its relationship to human rights, in the hope that the Committee would decide to include that theme among those to be given prominence on the occasion of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. The year 1963 was a significant milestone in the Freedom from Hunger campaign: the week of 17 March had been proclaimed Freedom from Hunger Week and many steps had already been taken in that connexion all over the world. On 21 March, over 140 postal administrations would issue commemorative stamps; from 4 to 18 June a World Food Congress was to be held in Washington to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the Hot Springs Conference at which it had been decided to establish FAO. The Congress would bring together experts who would review the progress achieved and recommend action to be taken. FAO had submitted certain suggestions with regard to Freedom from Hunger Week. When Human Rights Day was celebrated, FAO would of course place special emphasis on the Freedom from Hunger theme. Should the Committee consent to include that theme in the celebration it was planning, FAO was prepared to provide all the necessary details on what it proposed to do. For example, it might send a representative to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Rights to arrange for effective co-operation or adopt any other course suggested by the Committee.

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) expressed regret that most of the fifth meeting had been spent in a discussion which bore no relation to the Committee's agenda; while he did not wish to provoke another such discussion, he felt obliged to state the true facts. There had been some comment on the treatment of the coloured citizens of the United States and the action taken to protect their rights. While it was true that racial segregation existed in the United States, it was equally true that the United States Government was determined to take all the necessary steps to protect individual rights. Having

(Mr. Means, United States)

said that, he found it surprising that when racism in the United States was criticized there was never any protest against the racism prevailing in countries which prided themselves on being models of democracy.

A chapter had just been completed in the history of the determined struggle which a country deeply devoted to the principles of freedom and democracy had been waging for over a century to eradicate the last vestiges of prejudice and discrimination in all fields. The fact that it had been necessary to take steps to enable a citizen of Oxford, Mississippi, to enjoy full freedom was tragic and highly regrettable, but those steps represented a further advance towards full recognition of the sacred rights of the individual as proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. One of the advantages of a democratic society was that Government policy could be freely criticized; consequently, the United States Government readily accepted constructive criticism which might help it to make progress. He hoped that no nation would interpret the episode to which he had referred as a defeat or even a setback. On the contrary, the vigorous steps that had been taken clearly indicated the value which the Government and people of the United States placed on the individual; it was a triumph for free democratic institutions and demonstrated the resolute will of the public authorities not to yield to threats. The United States was determined not to relax its vigilance in the field of human rights; its President had not only declared that the court decisions must be respected and that the unity of the country would be preserved, but had categorically upheld the rights of the individual in his efforts to achieve happiness and dignity. The United States delegation realized that there would always be some delegations in the United Nations which would wrongfully accuse it and distort its words or exploit them for reprehensible political purposes; nevertheless it wished to state - and it was making a solemn, firm and irrevocable pledge - that so long as the the United States remained free and independent, its fundamental objective would be to ensure the right to life, liberty and happiness of the citizens of the fifty States, without distinction as to colour, belief, religion or national origin.

(Mr. Meana, United States)

No Member of the United Nations could honestly claim that discrimination and prejudice were unknown in its country. No civilization was exempt from those two evils; they were odious and pernicious, just as were the political prejudice and harassment which led to people being denied the right to choose the system and institutions which they thought best. How could the world remain indifferent to the ruthless slaughter of men whose only crime was to seek freedom? At the very moment when the United States was being accused of racism in the United Nations, fundamental human rights and freedom of association were being scandalously violated in the socialist countries: African students whose sole aim was to obtain education had been brutally treated, thrown into prison and publicly insulted because of their race and colour. The students had said that there was more racial discrimination in that communist country than in any of the so-called capitalist countries, and that not only was it no accident but the communist authorities themselves were responsible for it. In that connexion, he quoted extracts from the Ghana Times and the Ghana Evening News, which denounced all manifestations of racism with equal force, whether they occurred at Johannesburg, in Mississippi or at Sofia. It should also be pointed out that Malian and Ethiopian students had been subjected to similar treatment in Czechoslovakia: some of them had allegedly been forced to take part in political demonstrations against the United States. Why were those incidents passed over in silence? Why was no voice raised in condemnation of the socialist country, represented in the Committee itself, which had acquired more than 22,750,000 new subjects and 683,000 square miles of new territory since 1939? At the previous meeting the Soviet Union representative had spoken about the human rights in his country; while it was to be hoped that the situation was as he had described it, there were facts which led to other conclusions. Of the eight Member States which had abstained from voting on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, two were members of the Committee and one of those two was in fact the Soviet Union, whose Minister for Foreign Affairs had indicated at the time that his country could not vote in favour of the Declaration because it was unable to support some of the articles - which was tantamount to an admission that the concept of civil liberties was not endorsed by the Soviet Union Government. There was nothing surprising about such a statement; it was perfectly in keeping with the entire attitude of the Soviet Union with regard to human rights. While

(Mr. Means, United States)

it was true that the Soviet Constitution devoted sixteen articles to the fundamental rights and duties of citizens, what was bestowed with one hand was taken back with the other by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

As its authors themselves had admitted, the Russian revolution had sought to exterminate the middle class, and the world had in fact witnessed the liquidation of the Kulaks as a class: those of them who had not been deported to Siberia had been shot and the blood-baths of the 1930's showed what extremes had been resorted to. Mr. Khrushchev had of course admitted that those incidents were mistakes, but the facts remained. In that connexion, he quoted the following statement by Mr. Vychinsky, an expert on Soviet law: "The Soviet regime could not even grant individual liberties - including freedom of thought - to the dissident communists, and civil rights can only be exercised in conformity with the interests of the workers and to strengthen the foundations of the regime". Indeed, article 157 of the Soviet Code of Criminal Procedure gave the Minister for the Interior and the Public Prosecutor the discretionary power to deprive a citizen of all his rights - which was contrary to article 128 of the Constitution. In the view of the United States, the right to protest and to hold different opinions was a fundamental element of democracy, marking the difference between freedom and slavery. In that connexion, he recalled the statement made by President Truman in 1948, the second point of which reads as follows: "We believe that all men are entitled to freedom of thought, expression and religion".

His country, which was proud of its democratic institutions and of the progress it had made in the field of civil rights, could not allow any doubt to be cast on the sincerity of its efforts to eliminate regrettable abuses. The international community was quite capable of distinguishing between a Government which used its power to protect human rights and one which used its tanks and guns to crush those who aspired to freedom. He failed to see how anyone could be impressed by the hypocritical allegations of those whose firing squads, political purges and generally oppressive regime were notorious from East Berlin to Peiping.

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Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) noted that, in its revised version, the report gave a lengthy account of the opinions expressed by the various delegations during the Committee's session. Nevertheless, his delegation would like it to include, for the guidance of the Commission on Human Rights, a suggestion based essentially on the third preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 1775 (XVII). That paragraph should be taken into consideration, and in that connexion the Committee could ask the United Nations to publish a brochure on colonialism similar to the one which UNESCO had devoted to discrimination. The brochure would be in three parts: the first would describe the circumstances in which, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, millions of men had won their freedom and were now represented in the United Nations; the second would indicate what remained to be done and describe the efforts made by the United Nations to help the remaining dependent territories to achieve independence; the third would show how the liberation of the colonial peoples was contributing to the advancement of mankind and the inauguration of a lasting peace. Such a brochure would not be controversial, for it would not attack any country but would limit itself to relating the facts. He hoped that his suggestion would be favourably received, particularly by the delegations which had stressed the need to struggle against racial discrimination, since the liberation of the colonial peoples was a factor which promoted the elimination of racial prejudices, and the victory of the peoples of Africa who were still under colonial rule would facilitate the liberation of all Africans, wherever they might be.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that he would have to take up the Committee's valuable time, but he felt compelled to answer the violent accusations which the United States representative had just made, because the latter had taken up a completely irresponsible course of slandering socialist countries by making false statements. He pointed out, in the first place, that the Soviet Union delegation had not specifically mentioned the United States at the previous meeting when it had stated that in some countries, human rights were losing ground instead of advancing and that racial discrimination was still very active. Those were facts which the General Assembly had brought to light in many of its resolutions and which the Soviet Union delegation was entitled to mention. It was very significant that the United States delegation

(Mr. Ostrovsky, USSR)

should have felt itself to be the target: it had had no difficulty in recognizing itself among the countries indicated and it no doubt had the best reasons in the world to interpret some general remarks regarding violations of the Universal Declaration as a direct criticism of its Government.

The substance of the United States argument was the following: violations of human rights were widespread in the United States but the public authorities were taking the necessary steps to rectify the abuses. The United States representative had thus spontaneously admitted that various forms of racial discrimination, persecution for political convictions, so-called investigations of loyalty or persecution for so-called anti-American activities and the like existed in his country. That admission meant that the representative of the United States Government admitted that his country was following the path of fascistasation in full disregard of democratic liberties. If the United States Government by its own admission, was in such an unfavourable position, it would do better not to raise its voice unduly; it would be acting more wisely if it took the vigorous steps required to remedy those flagrant violations of the Charter and the Universal Declaration. But instead the United States representative thought it possible to distort the facts alleging that some measures had been taken against those flagrant violations. Whom was he trying to delude? As soon as one opened the book "Discrimination - USA" by Senator Javits one could become acquainted with numerous facts. Twenty-seven million Americans, one-sixth of the whole population of the United States were being subjected to discrimination in their choice of a home solely because of the colour of their skin or because of the way they worshipped God; under the threat of physical persecution, millions of peoples were not admitted to the polling stations, they could not freely move in their own country nor study in the universities, etc.

That had been the situation in the past; it was still the case. What measures had the United States representative referred to? Up to the present time many racist laws which provided for racial discrimination had remained unchanged.

Having agreed that such a situation existed in the United States, the United States representative was trying to say that things were bad not only in his country, but also in the socialist countries. The United States delegation

(Mr. Ostrovsky, USSR)

had seen fit to slander the USSR and other socialist countries by affirming that democracy did not exist in the socialist countries. He had distorted statements by Mr. Khruschcev and Mr. Vychinsky, the articles of the Soviet Constitution and Code of Criminal Procedure to give a false impression about the situation in the USSR. Of course for those countries, unlike the capitalist countries, democracy did not consist in allowing individuals to choose every four years those representatives of the financial monopolies who were supposed to defend their interests. He then questioned whether the word democratic could be applied to a country in which the right to work was not guaranteed and an entire sector of the population was subject to exploitation and discrimination. Such fictitious democracy had nothing in common with true democracy as practised in the socialist countries, where all the powers were in the hands of the people but not in representatives and lackeys of monopolies. The advantages of socialist democracy clearly showed why, since 1939, the world had undergone such changes and socialism had become an international system. The United States representative had referred to acts of violence in the USSR, but the Government and the Communist Party had resorted to force only after being compelled to do so by enemies of the revolution and particularly by the foreign Powers - among them the United States - which had invaded Soviet territory. The capitalist countries had never stopped their efforts, in disregard of international law and in opposition to the logic of history, to check the revolutionary advances of the socialist countries through subversive activities and now the United States Government was pursuing that policy further. The United States representative had alluded to firing squads; but when a country was faced with subversive manoeuvres financed by foreign Powers, it could hardly fail to take the necessary security measures. The Soviet people, having defeated foreign invasion by force of arms, was equally prepared to meet subversion with the appropriate counter-measures. If the United States representative thought that a State could allow itself to be destroyed by its enemies without acting in its own defence, he was sadly mistaken. The Soviet State had all the more reason to defend itself as it truly expressed the wishes of its people: no financial monopoly could seize power, since the means of production were collectively owned. Democracy as it was understood in the socialist countries was truly progressive, for it served the interests of the

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(Mr. Ostrovsky, USSR)

vast majority of the population and now in the USSR it served the interests of all the population; that was sufficient justification for the steps taken by the Soviet people against all the enemies of the Revolution, Kulaks among them, who with the support of the United States and other Western countries had begun a vicious fight against the revolutionary achievements and victories of the Soviet people. That group of population had represented only an insignificant minority and had been interested only in exploiting their fellow countrymen.

Regarding the vote cast by the USSR delegation at the time of the adoption of the Universal Declaration, he explained that the USSR delegation had been obliged to abstain because it had failed to secure the incorporation in the Declaration of the principle of self-determination - later proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) - and because in its view the text put to the vote did not go far enough and was not couched in sufficiently strong terms. It was absurd to claim that the USSR delegation had opposed the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration, when in fact it had wanted to strengthen them. On the question of self-determination of peoples, everyone knew the position of the United States Government, which sought to extend its rule to other States by the basest means - corruption, violence, pillage, blackmail and espionage - and was helping Portugal and South Africa to retain their hold on African territories. That country, which had not supported the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, was giving all its support and assistance to colonizers. That was the policy followed by a country which claimed to belong to "the free world". The policy of that country had been unmasked in the book "The Shark and the Sardines" by Dr. Arevalo, former President of Guatemala.

With respect to the charges against Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia made on the basis of newspaper articles, he said that the United States delegation had no information on what happened in those countries. It would be dishonest to publicize this allegation of discrimination on the basis of reports appearing in the United States newspapers. He had no doubt that these reports could not be given credit.

The United States representative could not with any serious sense of responsibility make such affirmations officially. It was futile to try to divert attention from what was happening in the United States by criticizing the socialist

countries, where the people were truly the masters of their fate and where some 100 different national groups enjoyed all fundamental freedoms fully and without discrimination. The United States delegation had clearly been ill-advised in its irresponsible decision to slander the socialist countries and the Soviet Union and make mendacious statements in the hope of justifying abuses which it did not even try to deny and which were tantamount to a total negation of human rights.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) remarked that the Rapporteur had complied very faithfully and objectively with the wishes of those delegations which, finding a reference to the summary records inadequate, had at the previous meeting asked that their views should be presented at some length in the Committee's report.

He wished to remind members that the item on the agenda was the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, and to remark that mutual recriminations were both pointless and irrelevant. In the hope of avoiding a prolonged and sterile debate, and speaking not as the representative of Saudi Arabia but as a member of a committee responsible for drawing up plans which would lead to the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration being celebrated peacefully and joyously, he urged all delegations present to approve the report as it stood. The suggestion of the Guinean representative was very valuable, but if attention was to be drawn to the problem of colonialism it would be far better to request, for instance, that the competent United Nations bodies should fix a deadline for the total abolition of colonialism. Similarly, it was open to any delegation that was particularly concerned with the question of racial discrimination to ask to have the matter included in the agenda of the General Assembly. It would, however, be inappropriate to make either of those questions the theme of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. Everyone was

(Mr. Barcody, Saudi Arabia)

aware of the vigorous stand his delegation had always taken against colonialism and racial discrimination; it was as anxious as any other delegation to see those two evils rooted out, but it held that the Committee must display a spirit of objectivity and impartiality. Reviving old quarrels concerning different interpretations of the word democracy served no useful purpose. Emphasis should be placed not on those issues that divided nations, but on what bound them together, in particular their common adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He therefore urged all delegations, and especially the Guinean delegation, not to insist that explicit mention should be made in the list of suggestions and recommendations of any one aspect of human rights to which they attached special importance.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that, while the publication of a brochure on colonialism was an interesting possibility, it might place the Secretary-General in a difficult position. Indeed, how could the Secretary-General draw up a list of dependent territories if he did not have the report of the Committee of Twenty-Four? Moreover, the United Kingdom could not for its part accept a list which did not mention the territories under the Soviet yoke.

Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that he had refrained from speaking at the previous meeting in order not to prolong an already long debate. The Rapporteur had amended the draft report in compliance with the request made by the USSR and other delegations. The revised text of paragraph 9 was well drafted; it mainly summarized what had been said at the preceding meeting, but also referred to the summary records of earlier meetings. His delegation would have no difficulty in voting for the draft report.

The representative of Guinea had proposed the publication of a brochure on colonialism. While resolution 1514 (XV) was of course mentioned in the preamble of resolution 1775 (XVII), the Committee should confine itself to the question of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. The Declaration proclaimed rights which should be guaranteed to all by Governments

(Mr. Bouquin, France)

through national measures or international conventions. Resolution 1514 (XV), on the other hand, reaffirmed the right of peoples to self-determination, a political principle which involved relations between States and between peoples. If the two ideas were confused, the impression would be given that the problem of human rights arose only in the colonial countries. Nothing could be further from the truth. It had been stressed that the situation in regard to the respect for human rights still left much to be desired in many areas of the world and that in some non-self-governing areas a standard had been achieved which compared favourably even with that of some independent countries. It was dangerous to attach more importance to some countries than to others and to dwell on a phenomenon which was in the process of vanishing. When colonialism had disappeared, the problem of human rights would still not be solved. It was therefore that problem, considered from a universal point of view, that the Committee should tackle. Moreover, the peoples whom the Guinean representative had had in mind were not neglected in the Universal Declaration. The preamble clearly stated that the purpose of the Declaration was to ensure the observance of human rights both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

In view of the Special Committee's terms of reference, it would be better to refer the Guinean delegation's proposal to another United Nations body, such as the Committee of Twenty-Four. While he understood the reasons which had prompted that proposal, his delegation would be unable to support it.

Mr. BARTON (Canada) agreed with the Saudi Arabian representative that the Committee should proceed to the adoption of the draft report. The suggestion made by the Guinean delegation had merit, but, as had been said, it fell more within the competence of the Committee of Twenty-Four.

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(Mr. Barton, Canada)

The problem of human rights concerned the rights of the individual and of nations in all their aspects. Progress in that field depended on measures taken at the national level in all countries.

In conclusion, he congratulated the officers of the Committee on their excellent work and strongly urged the Committee to adopt the draft report in its present form.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) noted that some representatives thought it would be biased to lay stress on the right of self-determination. There was nothing discriminatory about the UNESCO brochure on racism. How could a brochure devoted to colonialism be discriminatory, when colonialism was the most serious violation of human rights? The United Kingdom representative had maintained that the Secretary-General would have difficulty in drawing up a list of colonies. However, resolution 1541 (XV) had laid down criteria for determining whether or not a country had in fact attained independence. In any case, he would maintain the first part of his proposal. The positive nature of decolonization could be brought out even without a list. A brochure which assessed the actual situation could not give rise to any objections.

He feared that his proposal had been interpreted in too wide a sense. He was categorically opposed to any statement that human rights were more respected in a given colony than in some independent States. Nothing could be further from the truth. There could be no human rights when a whole people was deprived of its right to live as it saw fit.

His delegation would therefore reserve its position until it knew the fate of its suggestion.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was pleased to note that the gaps which had existed in the draft report had now been filled. Paragraph 9 seemed to be acceptable as a whole, but he must nevertheless express certain reservations. He wondered why the opinion expressed in the third sentence had been attributed to "some" representatives. He had thought that all delegations had wished to lay stress on the question of colonialism. The word "some" should therefore be replaced by "the". Moreover, the last sentence of paragraph 9 seemed to justify colonialism and to contradict the Declaration on the granting

of independence to colonial countries and peoples, as well as other General Assembly resolutions on colonialism. He would not press for the deletion of that sentence, but thought that instead of saying "some other delegates", the Rapporteur should give the name of the representative who had in fact expressed such an opinion.

He would have no difficulty in supporting the Guinean proposal. The Mauritanian representative had also shown the need for the publication of such a brochure. Mention of it should be made in paragraph 9, since the proposal had already been made in the Sub-Committee, and it should also be stated that some delegations had opposed the idea.

An attempt had been made to describe colonialism as a complex problem. But that question had been unambiguously dealt with in several General Assembly resolutions and it was not by chance that the Declaration on the granting of independence had been mentioned in resolution 1775 (XVII). Replying to the United Kingdom representative, he said that the attempt of the representative of the United Kingdom to divert attention from the blood-stained colonial policy of Great Britain, and to slander socialist countries could not be considered otherwise but unworthy.

He wished to point out that it was not generosity that had prompted the United Kingdom to grant independence to some of its colonies. Those colonies had liberated themselves after bitter struggles.

Where the Universal Declaration was concerned, his delegation had abstained during the vote because some of the provisions had not, in its opinion, adequately ensured respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. The Soviet Union, moreover, advocated the drafting of a covenant on human rights, but it was aware that some countries created obstacles before the adoption of the covenants and declared that they would not sign them.

Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) recalled that the present meeting was to have been devoted exclusively to the adoption of the final report. The revised text adequately summarized the discussion at previous meetings and especially that at the preceding meeting.

(Mr. Volio Jimenez, Costa Rica)

The Guinean representative's proposal was very important; unfortunately, the Committee did not have the time to devote to it all the attention it deserved. Nevertheless, that proposal would appear in the summary record and would come before the Commission on Human Rights. His delegation supported the idea of making a historical survey of decolonization, either in a separate brochure or as a part of the history of the Universal Declaration, for the United Nations had every reason to be proud of the part it had played in that movement. The phenomenon of decolonization and the role of the United Nations could be mentioned in sub-paragraph (e) (p. 7). He therefore suggested that the Guinean proposal should be considered by the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) again congratulated the Rapporteur and fully supported the Guinean proposal. The additional work and cost which that proposal would involve would be minimal in comparison with the practical results it would produce. There would be no point in mentioning the Administering Powers in the brochure or in describing the conditions prevailing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; it would be enough merely to enumerate those Territories. In that regard, it would be well to refer to the brochure in sub-paragraph (e) (p. 7). Far from harming the report as a whole, such a reference would only increase its importance.

If the Guinean delegation's proposal was rejected, the Rapporteur could perhaps insert in the introduction to the report a paragraph stating that some delegations had urged the Committee to adopt the idea of a brochure such as those mentioned in the report. He hoped that that suggestion would enable the Committee to adopt the report unanimously.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) also congratulated the Rapporteur on the excellent report. He was entirely satisfied with paragraph 9 and did not understand the criticisms of the USSR representative. He found the suggestion made by the representative of Mauritania acceptable.

(Mr. Attlee, United Kingdom)

The representative of Guinea had stated that, in the colonized countries, human rights were non-existent. He was sorry to have to contradict that representative but it was undeniable that, in the territories administered by the United Kingdom, everyone in effect enjoyed to a high degree almost all the fundamental rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration. In that connexion, he quoted a passage from a book written by a Somali who had studied at Prague. The author recounted that a woman had been arrested at Prague for having criticized the régime, and pointed out that, in Somalia, people who had publicly denounced the British authorities had not on that account been put in prison.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) accepted the proposal of the representative of Costa Rica that the movement for decolonization should be mentioned in sub-paragraph (e) (p. 7). In reply to the United Kingdom representative, he reaffirmed that, as far as his own delegation was concerned, so long as an entire people was denied the right to manage its own affairs all other rights were unimportant.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the United Kingdom representative that the views of some delegations on the subject of colonialism were those of the majority, as was proved by the Declaration on the granting of independence which the General Assembly had adopted. So far as the situation in Czechoslovakia was concerned, he categorically rejected the groundless assertions made by the United Kingdom representative.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) warned the Committee that it would be dangerous to recommend that a pamphlet on colonialism be issued or that a chapter devoted to that question be inserted in the history of human rights. The Secretariat would have to take into account all the views expressed, and there would be nothing to prevent a Member State from requesting that the pamphlet should contain an analysis of neo-colonialism. The anniversary of the Universal Declaration should not be used as a pretext for accusations and recriminations.

He sympathized with Guinea's desire to help the Africans, but experience had shown that some situations could be exploited in the interests of the "cold war". Moreover, it was not through the Universal Declaration that certain peoples had liberated themselves, but through their own efforts.

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(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

He urged all the members of the Committee to adopt the draft report as it stood.

Mr. BAYONA (Colombia) supported the draft report in its existing form. He agreed with the representative of Guinea that what the United Nations had achieved in the field of decolonization had already had, and would always have, an effect on the full enjoyment of human rights. He endorsed the suggestion of the representative of Costa Rica that, in sub-paragraph (e) (p. 7), the Rapporteur should draw the attention of the Secretariat to the desirability of including an additional chapter on decolonization.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he did not understand the fears of the Saudi Arabian representative. If fear of the "cold war" made it impossible to speak of decolonization, all hope was lost. His delegation found it difficult to adopt the draft report in its present form, because some delegations, including that of Guinea, had not taken part in the work of the Sub-Committee. He requested that the Costa Rican proposal be put to the vote.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) regretted the assertions made by the Soviet Union representative. It had always been the policy of successive British Governments to see that colonized peoples attained independence by a methodical process. The United Kingdom and the Soviet Union had different views about the speed of that process, but their objectives were the same. He ventured to state, however, that one of the fundamental freedoms - freedom of expression - was better observed in Somalia than in Czechoslovakia.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) feared lest the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration might reveal to the world, even more openly, the differences of opinion which existed in the Committee. The Committee should, however, try to prevent that. As was favoured by the representatives of Costa Rica, Guinea, Mauritania, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, the best solution would be to suggest to the Commission on Human Rights the possibility of making special mention of colonialism, racial discrimination and religious intolerance, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration. That would

(Mr. Baroody, Saudi Arabia)

be better than asking the Rapporteur to change his draft report once again - which would require another meeting, since the Committee could not adopt the report until it had seen the final text. A reading of the report in conjunction with the summary records of the Committee's meetings would reveal not only the content of the Guinean proposal but also, as the Soviet Union representative had requested, the position adopted by each delegation with regard to a particular question.

Mr. DEMETROPOULOS (Greece), Rapporteur, asked whether the Committee would accept, by way of reference to the present meeting, the insertion, at the end of paragraph 9 of the report, of the following sentence:

"With reference to this debate, the Committee also discussed at some length the suggestion that a study should be made of developments and future prospects in the field of decolonization."

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that, while not wishing formally to reject the suggestion just made by the Rapporteur, he would have preferred the Chairman first to put to the vote the proposal made by the representative of Costa Rica and supported by the representative of Colombia.

Mr. ALCIVAR (Ecuador) proposed that the Costa Rican proposal be put to the vote immediately.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that it was high time to close the debate. He recalled, however, that he had received no reply to the two remarks he had made about paragraph 9 of the draft report. The Saudi Arabian representative was certainly right in stating that a reading of the summary records would suffice to show which delegations had supported a particular view, but it remained true that the report was too anonymous in character. In addition, the phrase "Some delegates", in the last sentence of paragraph 9, was incorrect, since only one representative had advanced the opinion in question. Finally, he was sorry that the United Kingdom representative considered it possible to repeat false accusations against Czechoslovakia, believing the moment was opportune because the representative of that country had not participated in the work of the Committee and thus had no possibility to give a suitable answer to the representative of the United Kingdom, whose position on that subject was dishonest.

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Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) formally presented his proposal, which had been supported by the representative of Colombia - viz. to insert after the words "progress already achieved", in paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (e) of the suggestions and recommendations (document ST/SG/AC.4/L.4/Rev.1, page 7), the following phrase: "including a brief and objective summary of the work accomplished by the United Nations in the process of decolonization."

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) apologized for taking time from the work of the Committee to reply to the statements made earlier by the representative of the Soviet Union, but he could not avoid answering such deliberate and malicious distortions and falsehoods.

He had never stated that violations of human rights were widespread in the United States; nothing in his statement - a written statement, copies of which had been given to the interpreters - referred to persecution for political convictions or to loyalty investigations.

If the USSR representative believed that an admission of imperfections in a society meant fascism, then his Government should engage in some self-examination and self-criticism, for never in history had there been a regime so imperfect, so brutal, so self-satisfied in its denial of all human rights, freedoms and dignities as that of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Khruschev had given to the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union a lurid account of the reign of terror under Stalin, who had ruled the USSR for a quarter of a century with never a word of open criticism against him during all that time.

The Soviet representative had charged, falsely, that the United States had used quotes from newspapers in the United States regarding the treatment of African students in communist countries. In fact, the United States had quoted from the Ghana Times and the Ghana Evening News.

He did not retract a single word of what he had stated regarding mistreatment of African students. As a matter of fact, the Bulgarian authorities had acknowledged difficulties in Bulgaria. Inasmuch as the USSR representative had reopened the question, he would like, with the permission of the Chairman, to complete his recitation of discrimination against African students, this time referring to the Soviet Union.

(Mr. Means, United States)

It might be well for the representative of the Soviet Union to soft-pedal the "virtues" of communist societies, especially in respect to non-discrimination, for it was well known throughout the world that the most segregated university was the Patrice Lumumba University, formerly known as the Peoples' Friendship University. That was also true of its subsidiary at Kiev. Complaints of discrimination because of race and colour at that university had reached vast proportions. African students had declared that they were not only discriminated against, but were also ostracized and not allowed to contact their embassies and ambassadors. Racial conflicts were commonplace, and violence and brutality were not lacking.

Not only did racial discrimination exist in the Soviet Union, but there was no remedy and no one to complain to, for the acceptance of a complaint would be an open acknowledgement of discrimination, and that the Soviet Union would never admit. Appeals to school authorities brought no action; appeals to the police came to naught. Thus, the Africans were left open to attack with no protection.

With reference to the United States statements on Mr. Vychinsky's speeches and writings, there was no distortion. If the Soviet representative would look up the unexpurgated record of Mr. Vychinsky's remarks at the time of the vote on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he would find that his then Foreign Minister had stated that his country could not guarantee freedom of religion. As to other statements by Mr. Vychinsky, he was somewhat surprised that the representative of the Soviet Union took the position that they were distorted; in fact, they were direct quotations. He stood by his statement that, what the Soviet Union gave with the Constitution in one hand, it took with the other in its Code of Criminal Procedure. That was why he had taken up the Committee's time to mention the precise articles of the Code of Criminal Procedure and of the Constitution.

The Soviet representative had spoken, not for the first time, of Senator Javits' book entitled Discrimination - U.S.A. Yet Senator Javits' remarks, which the Soviet representative had quoted, were based on material furnished by a non-governmental organization, and a religious one at that - the Society of Friends. It was indeed strange and hypocritical that the representative of a government which purported to have no faith in non-governmental organizations and which denied

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(Mr. Means, United States)

the validity of religion would use those sources as gospel. Incidentally, he would like to ask what would have happened to a citizen of the USSR if he had dared to make such comments on Soviet society?

Returning to the proposal of the representative of Costa Rica, he asked whether, in that case, the sentence would end with the word "decolonization" or whether the rest of the sentence, from the words "current endeavours" onwards, would be retained.

Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) replied that the end of the sentence would remain unaltered.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) thought that the wording of paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (e) could be left as it was and that the following sentence could be added after that sub-paragraph: "A number of representatives proposed that the history should include a brief and objective summary of the work accomplished by the United Nations in the process of decolonization".

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that the representative of Saudi Arabia had in fact just made a new proposal; the Committee should first decide on the Costa Rican proposal.

The CHAIRMAN noted that there were two possibilities. On the one hand, the Committee could adopt the proposal of Costa Rica amending sub-paragraph (e). But as that sub-paragraph appeared in the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee as a whole, it would not be possible, as the Saudi Arabian representative had proposed, to insert in it an opinion held by certain delegations only. On the other hand, the Committee could insert in another part of the report a paragraph indicating that certain delegations had stressed the need to make specific mention of decolonization.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) requested that the Committee should hold a further meeting, since he would like to be able to set forth certain other ideas on the matter. It would be a mistake to adopt in haste a text which had not been sufficiently studied; if the text of the draft report as it stood were put to the vote, he would have no choice but to abstain.

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Mr. FAYAD (Colombia) said that the proposal made by the representative of Costa Rica and supported by his own delegation had been designed simply to facilitate the Committee's task. If that proposal were put to the vote, its sponsors would accept the result, whatever it might be.

The CHAIRMAN, expressing the hope that it would be possible to avoid taking a vote the outcome of which might not be unanimity, suggested, as a compromise, the addition at the end of paragraph 9 of the following text:

"When the proposals set forth in section I of the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee, particularly those in paragraph 2 (e), were discussed, certain delegations suggested that the history of the Universal Declaration should include a brief and objective summary of the work accomplished by the United Nations in the process of decolonization."

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he too would have preferred not to have recourse to a vote. Nevertheless, a reasonable compromise text had been suggested; it should appear in the Committee's proposals, and not in the summary of the debate. Accordingly, his delegation formally proposed that the Costa Rican representative's proposal should be put to the vote.

Mr. BARCODY (Saudi Arabia) endorsed the suggestion made by the Chairman and formally proposed that it should be put to the vote first. If it was rejected, he would then support the Costa Rican proposal.

Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he could not accept that suggestion, for the Saudi Arabian representative was actually making an entirely different proposal, under the guise of an amendment to the Costa Rican proposal. The latter should be put to the vote first.

Mr. BARCODY (Saudi Arabia) requested that the voting should be carried out, as was customary, in the order of the paragraphs of the report to which the amendments related. As he had submitted a formal amendment to paragraph 9 of the report, his proposal should be put to the vote first.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, in conformity with rule 132 of the rules of procedure, the Costa Rican proposal should be put to the vote first.

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Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea), supported by Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), suggested that the Chairman should consult the Committee with regard to the order in which the two proposals should be put to the vote.

The Committee decided, by 9 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions, that the Costa Rican proposal should be put to the vote first.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, requested a brief suspension of the meeting so that he might formulate certain amendments to the draft report.

After an exchange of views in which Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica), Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) and Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that the voting on the Costa Rican proposal had already begun and could not be interrupted.

The Costa Rican proposal was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the beginning of the meeting the representative of the Soviet Union had proposed two amendments to paragraph 9 of the report. The first would entail the replacement of the word "some", in the fourth line of that paragraph, by the word "the".

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) said that he would prefer to retain the existing wording, which was closer to reality since some delegations, although not expression opposition, had not taken a stand on the point in question.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he believed that all the representatives had spoken against colonialism and he therefore proposed to change the word "some" by the word "the". If it was not the case and the USA and some other delegations had not taken an attitude against colonialism, of coutse it was not necessary to make changes in the report.

Mr. MEANS (United States of America) protested vigorously against the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, which was a wilful and deliberate attempt to distort the United States position. To repeat, the existing text reflected the true situation, since many representatives had not expressed themselves on that question.

Mr. NABAVI (Iran) requested closure of the debate in accordance with rule 118.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the debate concerned not the draft resolution as a whole but only the proposed amendments.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in accordance with rule 131 of the rules of procedure, amendments should be considered before the proposals to which they related. He asked whether the representative of the Soviet Union would agree to an amendment whereby the beginning of the last sentence of paragraph 9 would read: "One delegate pointed out ...".

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would be satisfied with that amendment.

Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), submitting a new amendment to the draft report, proposed the insertion, at the end of paragraph 9, of the following sentence:

"One of the delegates suggested that any literature which would be prepared by the United Nations should indicate concern about nuclear tests and their danger to human life."

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft report as a whole should be put to the vote.

Mr. OSTROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining his vote, said that his delegation would vote for the draft report because it wished to give evidence of a constructive spirit; that by no means meant, however, that it was satisfied with the report or with the proposals which it contained. The Soviet Union must, in particular, dissociate itself categorically from certain statements made in the Committee in praise of colonialism. On the contrary, it considered that the year 1963 should be decisive in the struggle against colonialism, and it deeply regretted that the report mentioned no practical measure to that effect. The Soviet Union would have liked the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration to constitute a decisive stage in the progress of human rights throughout the world, instead of being limited to a purely formal celebration. Despite the defects to which it had drawn attention, it hoped that the fifteenth anniversary would have some practical value, and it would accordingly vote in favour of the draft report.

The draft report (ST/SG/AC.4/L.4/Rev.1) was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.